

The Numismatist

FOR COLLECTORS OF COINS, MEDALS, TOKENS AND PAPER MONEY



**The 1804 Dollar
and the Midnight Minter**
by Pete Smith

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New from Bowers and Merena!

SAINT-GAUDENS DOUBLE EAGLE CLUB

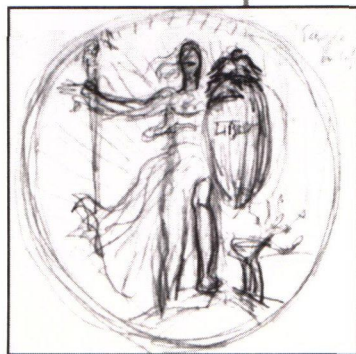
JOIN THE CLUB!

We have made an arrangement to have first pick of certain United States \$20 gold double eagles imported from Switzerland and other places. Each coin is in beautiful, lustrous Mint State and has been certified by PCGS.

Saint-Gaudens \$20 gold double eagles are among the most admired of United States coin designs. In 1905, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, America's most acclaimed sculptor, was commissioned by President Theodore Roosevelt to redesign America's coinage. Working from his studio in Cornish, NH, the artist created motifs for the \$10 and \$20, which were released by autumn 1907.

We invite you to build a collection of affordable dates and mintmarks (priced at less than \$1,000 each). This includes 32 DIFFERENT VARIETIES which are listed in the box below (tentative listing based upon today's valuations; the market can and does fluctuate). What a gorgeous, impressive collection this will make!

A proposed sketch of Saint-Gaudens' obverse design for the \$20 double eagle.



IT'S AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

Here is all you do:

1) Decide how much you'd like to spend a month on your collection. For just \$500 (the minimum we recommend), we feel confident we can complete your collection with Mint State pieces ranging in grade from MS-60 to MS-63.

2) Choose the collecting program best suited to you needs:

Mint State Saint-Gaudens Double Eagles Priced at less than \$1,000!

1907 Arabic numerals	1911-D
1908 No Motto	1911-S
1908-D No Motto	1912
1908 With Motto	1913
1908-D With Motto	1913-D
1909	1914
1909-S	1914-D
1910	1914-S
1910-D	1915
1910-S	1915-S
1911	1916-S

This ends the early series of Saint-Gaudens \$20, after which no pieces were minted until the 1920s. The list of affordable dates and mintmarks resumes:

1920	1924
1922	1925
1922-S	1926
1923	1927
1923-D	1928

Program #1 - Build a collection of the 32 different varieties listed in the box at left.

Program #2 - Build a short set of just 10 different dates and mintmarks.

3) Call Gail Watson, with your credit card in hand, and say, "I would like to join your Double Eagle Club." Or, send us a fax with your credit card information. Or, mail us a note or letter with your personal check. We'll take it from there.

Month by month, your golden collection will grow before your eyes! There is no obligation to continue, and you can end your participation at any time, simply by letting us know and paying any balance due. Each coin comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee of satisfaction. And each coin comes to you with a special 4% member's discount.

TAKE YOUR PICK TO GET STARTED!

Pick out one, two, or more from the following listing of introductory specials to give you a running start on your set. Then, every month we will automatically send you another coin that you need. These can be charged to your credit card, or sent for inspection (upon credit approval), or you can pay with your personal check.

Introductory Price to Club Members - \$575

Each date listed is a sparkling Mint State example of this popular issue.

- 1908 No Motto MS-63 (PCGS)
- 1922 MS-63 (PCGS)
- 1923 MS-63 (PCGS)
- 1924 MS-63 (PCGS)

SPECIAL SIGN-UP BONUS! With your first order we will send you a copy of Q. David Bowers' award-winning book, *United States Gold Coins: An Illustrated History*, illustrated with gems from the Eliasberg Collection. This deluxe hardbound volume, profusely illustrated including color plates, lists for \$57.95, but is yours FREE. It is the standard reference on the series. In fact, when Secretary of the Treasury James Baker wanted to learn about American gold coins, he consulted (and quoted from) this book!



A cast of "Victory" as seen on the Sherman Monument, Central Park, New York City. This figure was used as a model for Saint-Gaudens' \$20 design.

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The Numismatist

FEATURES

U.S. COINAGE

Untangling the Tale of the Midnight Minter

- 1007 Researchers have been led astray by the colorful story of Theodore Eckfeldt surreptitiously striking numismatic rarities for sale to 19th-century collectors.

PETE SMITH

U.S. ERRORS & VARIETIES

Cracks and Breaks in Dies, Collars and Hubs

- 1010 Some collectors of United States coins are drawn to errors that display cracks or breaks, in part because of their dramatic appearance and relative scarcity.

JAMES WILES

COIN PRESERVATION

Two Ways to Safeguard Your Prooflike Dollars

- 1018 Ever-present in our atmosphere, hydrogen sulfide gas may be a silver coin's worst enemy. Fortunately, measures can be taken to protect against this hazard.

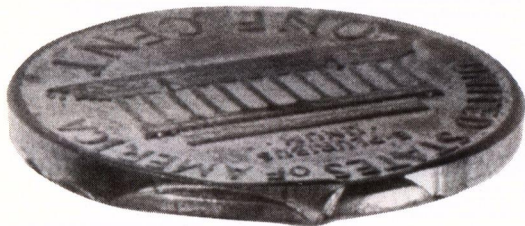
WEIMAR W. WHITE

PRIMITIVE MONEY

Gold as a Commodity in West Africa

- 1023 Extracted by ancient miners using unsophisticated tools, gold was adopted as a medium of exchange across the African continent to India and Europe.

RITA MILLER

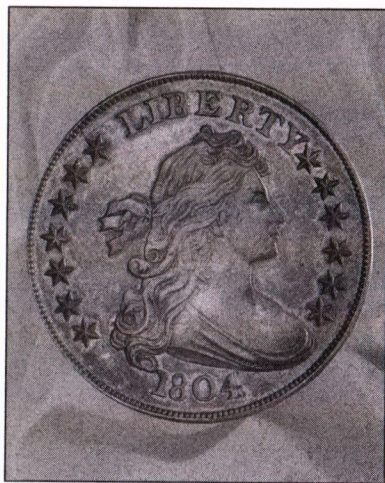


Deterioration of dies, hubs and collars, caused by the stress of the production process, results in damage on the coins they strike (page 1010).





DEPARTMENTS



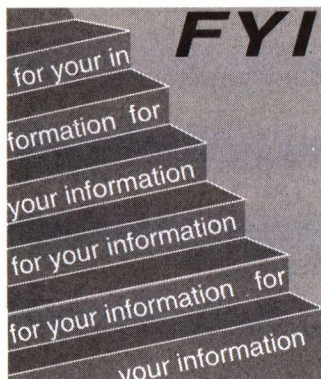
COVER

Speculation and myth surround Theodore Eckfeldt, who is thought to have clandestinely produced and sold rare United States coins, including 1804 dollars (page 1007). Illustrated on the cover is the Class III Bebee specimen of this great rarity, which resides in the ANA Money Museum.

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The author describes two simple methods collectors can use to prevent hydrogen sulfide damage to their prooflike silver dollars (page 1018).



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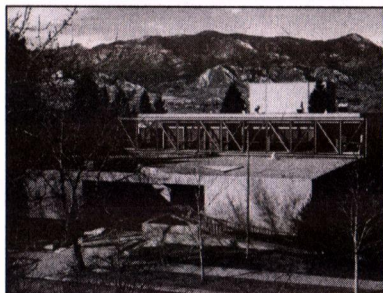
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The American Numismatic Association (ANA), an educational, nonprofit organization, is the largest and most active numismatic body in the world. It invites and welcomes to membership all persons who have a sincere interest in numismatics, whether they collect coins, paper money, tokens or medals, whether advanced collectors or those only generally interested in the subject. The ANA was founded in 1891, and claims more than 27,000 members from every state in the Union and many foreign countries. The Association's official journal, *The Numismatist*, was first published in 1888 by Dr. George F. Heath. Chartered for 50 years by an Act of Congress in 1912 and renewed in perpetuity by an Act of Congress on April 10, 1962, the ANA is a mutual organization for the benefit of its members.

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ANA Bylaws require the publication of each applicant's name and state.

☐ Check here if you **DO NOT** want your name and address forwarded to the ANA Representative in your area.

☐ Check here if you would like your name provided to companies with offers we feel may interest you.

I herewith make application for membership in the American Numismatic Association, subject to the Bylaws of said Association. I also agree to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Association.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

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Signature of Parent or Guardian (required for Junior applicant) _____

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Forward completed application and payment to ANA, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, telephone 719/632-2646, fax 719/634-4085. Foreign applications must be accompanied by U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank.

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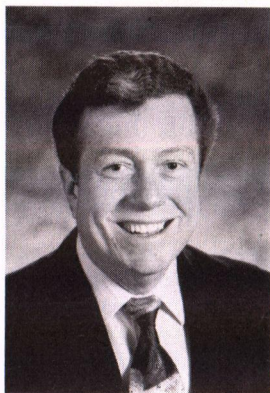
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As the Numismatic World Turns

AT THE TIME I applied for ANA membership in 1971, I was in awe of the organization's leaders as well as other hobby luminaries. I never envisioned that my journey along the numismatic trail would make me the 50th president of the world's greatest coin organization. Since my presidency has become a reality, let me take this moment to thank the overwhelming number of members who voted for me.

Now, down to business! One of my goals, listed under the "major" category, is to strongly support some very special educational groundwork to be laid by ANA Education Director James Taylor. Its primary objective is to help revitalize numismatics, making it a household word. This will be accomplished by focusing on our 50 million school-age youngsters and helping them become tomorrow's collectors via our Numismatic Curricula Project. This will create kits for teachers consisting of lesson plans, study guides, worksheets, student activities and multimedia presentations. The kits can be used to integrate numismatics into American History classes. (Yes, this subject still is taught!) Being a former teacher of 7th through 9th grades in the New York City school system from 1969 through 1979, I can apodictically exclaim there is no more effective way to create the next generation of collectors than by reaching children in their schools.

Another goal for my term as president is to implement numismatic programs to encourage youths and adults to socialize through the medium of numismatics. I want to

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

.....
BY ANTHONY SWIATEK

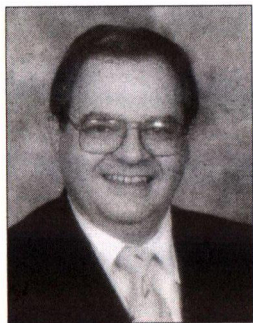
develop educational programs that excite the basic intelligence of youth and adults and their acquired knowledge. These programs will attract new collectors of all ages to the hobby and increase membership in the ANA. Increasing the membership

base will help defer the inevitable future raises in membership dues. I will attempt to find ways to underwrite programs that will enhance the hobby while building up funds to be used for the Association, its goals and objectives at times when the numismatic hobby suffers financial reverses.

I plan to help ensure that the ANA adopts and maintains ancillary programs that are of benefit to members primarily and to collectors in general. These will include the current programs of publications, conventions, library, museum, authentication and related numismatic services. I will assist in developing United States government programs for coins, new coinage and currency designs, and monetary reforms, and in marketing foreign government products that will appeal to present collectors and attract new ones.

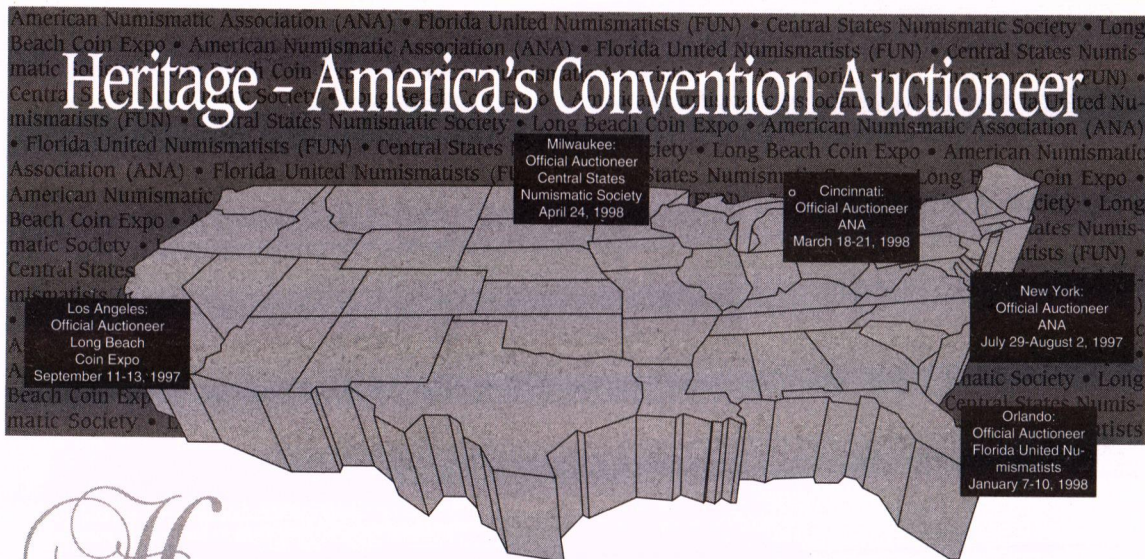
With the Association's very strong financial condition and the excellent performance of our endowment funds guiding us into the future with security and tremendous resources, we now can focus on developing a strategy for enhancing the hobby for generations to come. The previous administration helped lay a solid foundation with its fiscal responsibility, and it is our duty to remain vigilant. The implementation of new ideas and programs, as well as the continuation of existing programs and services, is a direct result of the financial strength of the Association.

The prosperous times we enjoy could not have been possible without the tireless effort and dedication of the wonderful staff at ANA headquarters and the generosity of our faithful members over the many years. The next two years will be just as challenging, and it will be an honor to help steward such a fine organization and its members into a new and exciting era for numismatics. •



ANA President Anthony Swiatek (LM 1099) is an authority on gold and silver commemorative coins and has testified before Congress on circulating and commemorative coinage. The author of a number of books, newsletters and articles, he has won the ANA's Heath and Wayte and Olga Raymond Literary Awards. Swiatek also is a recipient of the ANA Medal of Merit and Outstanding Adult Advisor award.

A stylized, cursive signature of Anthony Swiatek in dark ink.



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The Glitter of Gold

ABOUT A YEAR ago, our local coin club presented members with 1/10-ounce gold coins as attendance prizes. Afterward we would have been more than happy to buy those prizes back for what we paid for them. Why? Because gold had passed the \$400-per-ounce mark.



Will gold reach \$875 per ounce, as it did in early 1980? And if it soars another \$100, do you sell? After reaching that high, gold took a number of drastic dips in 1980, ranging from \$455 to \$730. In 1981 it ranged from \$385 to \$616; in 1982 it fell even more, ranging from \$295 to \$500.

Buying gold and other precious metals is a gambling game. *Gold is not an investment.* At best, it can be called a "speculative investment." In my opinion, if gold is a part of an investment portfolio, it should be a very small part, certainly less than 5 percent of the total.

The value of certificates of deposit (CDs) and Treasury notes and bills does not decline, but gold can and does. To outdo the return on a CD, gold has to make some large gains, and you have to know when to sell.

Many things affect the price of precious metals. A case in point is the

Treasury bond scare just last year, when a Wall Street firm, Moody's Investment Service, reduced the rating status of the United States government because of legislative budget disagreements and the good faith of available funding.

No doubt gold is popular, and it will always be in demand. The old adage "Buy low, sell high" is good advice, provided you know what constitutes low and high.

I like gold and always have. Historically, kings and queens had gold, and I like to have my share. If you do, too, keep in mind its ups and downs.

Adapted from THE SAND DOLLAR, official publication of New Jersey's Ocean County Coin Club (OCCC).

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the OCCC, ANA or the editorial staff.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK! Why Do I Belong?



Occasionally, someone asks me why I belong to the American Numismatic Association:

I tell them I belong because I don't know all there is to know about numismatics.

I belong because I want to take advantage of the constant flow of educational programs and seminars.

I belong because I want to attend world-class conventions where I can exchange ideas with others and learn from their experiences.

I belong because my voice is heard through the new Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

I belong because the numismatic public regards the American Numismatic Association as a well-established organization and my reputation with other numismatists, the public and my peers is enhanced.

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LETTERS

Recognition for YN Contributions

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the young numismatists (YNs) who sent their quarters and dollars in support of Scott Travers' campaign for the vice presidency of the American Numismatic Association. A half-page advertisement in the June 1997 issue (p. 659) of *The Numismatist* endorsed his candidacy, but through a printing error did not state that it was paid for by me and YN contributions. I believe the support of young collectors helped ensure Scott's election to this important post. Thanks to you all!

Larry Gentile, LM 3991

Kenneth Bressett's "Peace through Coinage" program, which advocates minting of coins with a theme of "peace" for the year 2000, is very commendable and worthy of our support. We should further peace in any way we can. [To this end,] I suggest . . . we omit the phrase "In God We Trust" from our coinage. Our Founding Fathers knew the disastrous consequences of religious power plays, and so should we. The motto "E Pluribus Unum" is well chosen; contributes to a positive, peaceful attitude; and will serve us well in the future without religious connotation.

Walter Leu, ANA 154833

Students Solve a Mystery

The 29th Annual Summer Conference course on 20th-century Chinese coinage taught by acknowledged authority George Fisher, was a challenge from the beginning. On the first day, he gave us what appeared to be a Chinese knife coin, and told us

to identify it by the last day of class. We were equal to the task.

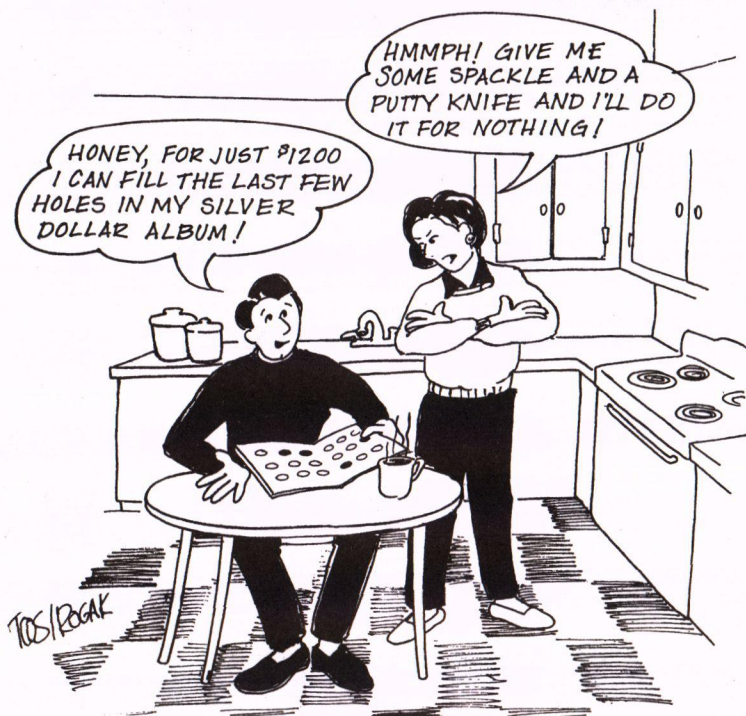
We had several theories: 1) It was used by General Tsao, famed for General Tsao's Chicken in restaurants throughout the world. The nine characters on the knife are the recipe for the chicken, including secret herbs and spices, and may have been pirated by the general's second in command—one Colonel Sanders. The back of the knife is blank, but once may have offered the remedy for General Tsao's chicken.

2) The knife really was a straight razor used in a Shanghai barber shop. The characters could be interpreted as "braise the chicken slowly over low heat" (relating to the first theory), but, with the addition of two dots to the left corner of the second character, it might be translated "make sure the lather is soapy before slapping it on the customer's face." (Or, perhaps this is a Chin Dynasty piece, in which case the characters mean "not by the hair of my chinny chin chin.") Further study of this theory is needed.

3) This actually is not a coin at all, but rather some type of ancient, Chinese shoe scraper. After all, it seems to be made of lowly brass, so it could easily have been used on lowly shoes.

THE FLIP SIDE

BY LARRY ROGAK & A.J. TOOS



And there's one final theory: the coin is a fake. Do you really think George would have let us at one of the real pieces from his collection? And do you really believe any of these other theories?

David Benvenuto, J 160751

Search for CC Dollars a Memorable Challenge

I enjoyed Murray G. Singer's article in the July 1997 issue about building a 13-piece set of CC Morgan dollars ("A Quiet Adventure with Carson City Mint Dollars," p. 761). Back in the early 1960s, I, too, assembled such a set and can relate to the author's comments. I have since given my set to my daughter; I hope she will treasure it as a family heirloom.

Weimar W. White, ANA 103956

Hubbard Provides Clarification of Mexican History and Coinage

I read Harley W. Reno's article entitled "The Triad Model in Numismatic Study" (June 1997, p. 620) and would like to correct some inaccuracies involving Mexican history and coinage:

1) At no time between 1894 and 1905 did the government of Porfirio Diaz issue a decree ordering the devaluation of the peso. The diameter of the 8 reales and 1 peso struck in the same period did not vary from the 39mm norm.

2) The article noted that the Liberty Cap peso was valued at US\$2.06 at the turn of the century. To the best of my knowledge, the peso never reached this high rate of exchange; US\$.48 is a closer figure.

3) It is noted that "rapid inflation

followed in 1907, when Diaz resigned and Francisco Madero assumed control." Diaz resigned on May 25, 1911; Madero became president on November 6, 1911. Likewise, Venustiano Carranza took over on August 20, 1914, not between 1908 and 1913, as noted.

4) The article states, "In 1935 Mexico was led by Lazaro Cardenas, at which time the public was forced to exchange silver coins for paper money." If this indeed were the case, why did the Mexican government issue 70,800,000 .425 silver 50-centavo coins in 1935? Of these, 60,000,850 were struck by three United States mints.

A statement at the end of the article, "Sooner or later, lesser denominations of coins disappear because their intrinsic value is greater than

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their face value," can be illustrated by what happened to Mexico's copper-nickel 10- and 20-centavo coins, hundreds of millions of which were struck between 1974 and 1980. At one time, I figured that intrinsic value was more than 10 times face value. A newspaper article later confirmed this: A trailer truck carrying a load of these coins was detained and the cargo confiscated near the United States border because Mexican law prohibited the export of current coins.

Clyde Hubbard, ANA 18455

Readers Offer Explanations for Behavior of T-Shirted Collector

I found myself identifying somewhat with the collector described in Don Bonser's recent column in *The*

Numismatist (July 1997, "A Case of Slab Avoidance," p. 823). In the 20 years I have been collecting, I have purchased only one encapsulated coin. It was an investment buy, and I sold it a short time later for a modest profit.

I don't know about other people, but I don't like slabbed coins. First, it's like buying new furniture and putting plastic slipcovers on it. You can't touch it or feel the comfort of it, and forget about sitting on it! I want to hold the coin—and its history—in my hand. People don't like to remove a coin from its slab, perhaps for fear of violating some obscure law (like removing the tags on mattresses).

Second is the history itself. A slabbed coin is like reading about the Battle of Gettysburg; a raw coin is

like visiting the battlefield in person. True, you can better trust the grade of a slabbed coin, but where is the adventure, where is the mystery?

Tom Lopez, ANA 166486
via Internet

I sympathize 100 percent with Don Bonser's T-shirted customer. Recently, I took my nice Gobrecht dollar, which an elderly relative had given me a long time ago, to a coin club meeting to show the other members. Someone asked whether I had ever thought of having the coin authenticated and encapsulated. In all my years of coin collecting, this never occurred to me.

My dollar is a splendid example of Early American art—a superb piece of silver with a fine, attractive patina.

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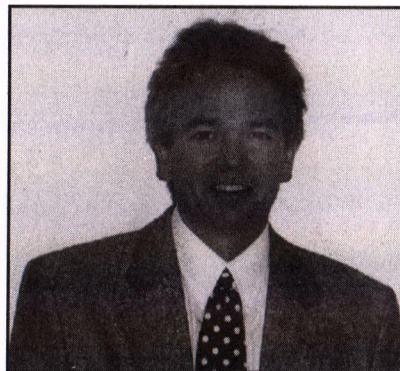
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Wrap it up in a slab, put a guarantor's name and a numeric grade on it, and it becomes a commodity, a product of a 1990s laboratory rather than an 1830s artist.

I understand why a buyer might want an expert opinion on an expensive item, as the T-shirted customer requested of the second dealer, who presented the coin to him in a tolerable form.

James Roberts, ANA 156665
via Internet

It would seem that Don Bonser's customer subscribed to the mantra "All Slabs Are Bad." Never mind that Don offered to crack the coin out or that he would not charge for the slab. Just the fact that the coin was in a slab at one time would have

turned him off.

The customer probably did not know how to look at a slabbed coin. If he had, he would have recognized it when the second dealer cracked it out of its encapsulation. Even after he saw the raw coin, he had to rely on a third-party expert to verify the grade. (He could have gotten that information off the slab and not bothered a professional grader.)

When I go to a show, I have a general idea of what I want for the money I have to spend. If I like a coin at the price offered, I will buy it; if I don't like the price, I won't. When shopping for coins, trust your instincts; do some research on pricing, and look at a coin even if it is slabbed. You may be surprised.

Carl C. Honoré, ANA 163142

Correction

In the July 1997 issue of *The Numismatist*, an obituary for member Armand Champa (p. 816) stated that he was a founder of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. The organization actually was co-founded by the late Jack Collins and numismatic literature dealer George Kolbe.

The Editor

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the ANA or the editorial staff. Direct correspondence to "Letters," THE NUMISMATIST, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; fax 719/634-4085; or E-mail anaedi@money.org. No anonymous letters will be accepted, although names may be withheld upon request. THE NUMISMATIST reserves the right to edit all material for length and clarity.

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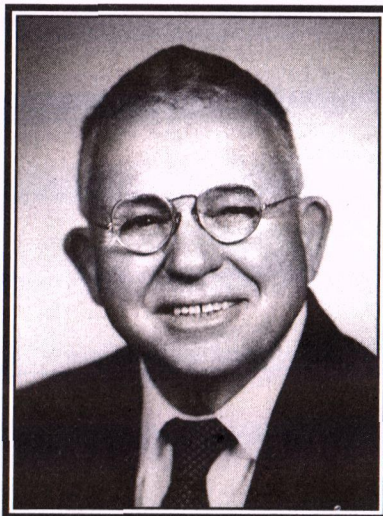
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John Jay Pittman spent well over half a century assembling his numismatic collection which contains hundreds of important date and condition rarities, "finest knowns", and even pieces that are the only ones in private hands. Mr. Pittman was perhaps the most instantly recognizable and well-known numismatist of the Twentieth Century. He served as President of the American Numismatic Association, the Canadian Numismatic Association and other local and regional associations. Mr. Pittman was a familiar face at coin shows, auctions and coin club meetings throughout the country for over 50 years. He often displayed portions of his collection and won countless "Best of Show" awards for his efforts. He was a true numismatic authority who freely shared his knowledge with many people who knew him and enjoyed a similar passion for coins.



John Jay Pittman
(1913-1996)

He traveled the country and the world for decades in search of just the right coins for his collection. He knew and dealt with many of the legendary figures in American Numismatics including Wayte Raymond, B. Max Mehl, Abe Kosoff, Jim Kelly and countless others. Many of his coins have interesting, and until now, generally unknown pedigrees. And often, there are fascinating stories behind the coins in his collection. To Mr. Pittman, the story and the history mattered nearly as much as the coins them-

selves!

The first of three John Jay Pittman Collection sales will take place at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland on October 21-23, 1997. This first sale will feature United States and Canadian Coins and two future sales, in May and October 1998, will offer for sale additional United States, Canadian, and Foreign coinage. The catalogue for the first sale is well into production and will feature detailed, accurate descriptions and pedigree information never before published. David W. Akers has spent many months cataloguing this sale which will present to collectors some of the greatest, most memorable coins ever offered for sale at public auction. Many of the coins being sold have not been available in

decades and some have never before been publicly offered for sale!

The Pittman catalogues themselves will certainly be "works-of-art" with state-of-the-art numismatic photography by Thomas A. Mulvaney and Donald L. Slouffman. They will be indispensable reference works for every serious numismatic library.

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NEW ISSUES

HONG KONG: Coins Symbolize a Fortuitous Transition

A brilliant-uncirculated (BU) set of seven legal-tender coins signaling the return of Hong Kong to China is available to collectors from the British Royal Mint. Also offered are two commemorative philatelic-numismatic covers (PNCs).

The BU coin set comprises a \$10 depicting a bridge, symbolizing a smooth transition; a \$5 featuring the Chinese character *shou* surrounded by five bats, harbingers of the five blessings (long life, wealth, health, love of virtue, and achieving one's destiny in life); a \$2 portraying the Ho Ho brothers (born of different fathers and united after much discord), symbolizing agreement and harmony; a \$1 featuring the fabulous unicorn Ch'i Lin, a creature of good omen; a 50 cents carrying the ox, signifying new beginnings; a 20 cents bearing two butterfly kites with tails knotted together, representing joy and conjugal felicity; and a 10 cents showing a traditional Chinese junk on a calm sea with a following wind. The common obverse features the bauhinia flower. Legends, dates and denominations are given in both English and Chinese characters.

One PNC commemorates the opening of the Lantau Link and completion of the highway network from Hong Kong to the new airport at Chek Lap Kok, combining the \$10 coin with a Lantau Link postage



stamp and a May 18, 1997, postal cancellation. The second PNC, carrying the \$5 coin, a commemorative label and four first-class postage stamps, bears a June 30, 1997, cancellation date.

The 1997 Hong Kong BU coin set is priced at \$27.50; the \$10 and \$5 PNCs are \$22.95 and \$19.50, respectively. Please add \$3.95 postage and handling per order. Direct inquiries or orders to the British Royal Mint, P.O. Box 772570, Woodside, NY 11377-2570, telephone toll-free 800/221-1215.



Actual Size: 38mm



Actual Size: 36.07mm

Canada's newest Aviation Series \$20 coins feature aerobatic teams: the Golden Hawks (left) flying Canadair F-86 Sabres, with a cameo of their first leader, Fern Villeneuve; and the Snowbirds (center) in Canadair CT-114 Tutors, with a cameo of Edward Higgins, a driving force behind the planes' design and construction. The 10th Anniversary Loon dollar design shows a natural flier taking off from a lake.

Not Actual Size

Fortuitous symbols inspired by Chinese folklore are featured on the reverses of a brilliant-uncirculated set produced on the occasion of Hong Kong's transition on July 1, 1997, from British colony to special administrative region of China. The seven-coin set is struck by the British Royal Mint.

CANADA: Aviation Issues and Loonie 10th Anniversary Coins Take Flight

The Royal Canadian Mint has announced two new releases for collectors. Available are the latest coins in the Mint's "History of Aviation" series, as well as a 1997 silver proof marking the 10th anniversary of the Loon dollar.

The 1997 \$20 Aviation series pieces, the fifth and sixth coins in Part II of the Mint's series, feature

closeups of the Canadair F-86 Sabre and CT-114 Tutor, respectively. Both aircraft played an important role in Canada's defense; the former was used by the Golden Hawks aerobatic team and the latter by the Snowbirds.

Like all issues in the Aviation series, the 1997 \$20 pieces feature a 24kt-gold-covered cameo, set in a sterling silver coin. Mintage has been established at 50,000 each. The coins are priced at \$57.95 each.

Canada also is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the introduction of another flier, the loon, on the circulating dollar (which acquired the nickname the "loonie") that replaced the nation's dollar bill. A new design,

released on July 1, shows a loon bursting from the water into flight. The sterling silver version of the 1997 loonie (mintage 25,000) is available to collectors for \$49.95.

For more information or to place an order, contact the Royal Canadian Mint, P.O. Box 457, Station A, Ottawa K1A 8V5, Canada, telephone toll-free 800/267-1871. Canada's new coins can be viewed on the Internet at the Royal Canadian Mint's web site, www.rcmint.ca.

FINLAND: Native Land Honors Its Famous "Flying Finn"

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the birth of record-setting track athlete Paavo Nurmi, "the Flying Finn," the Mint of Finland has issued a sterling silver 100 markkaa commemorative coin. Nurmi established 31 world records, and won 12 Olympic medals in the Games held from 1920 to 1928.

One side of the striking, modern coin design shows a distance runner in mid stride, running past a three-quarter profile of Nurmi. The other side carries the date; the country's name in Finnish and English (SUOMI/FINLAND); and a man and woman performing calisthenics, a tribute to Nurmi's role as an avid fitness booster after he retired from competition.

The 1997 Nurmi centennial sterling silver 100 markkaa coin costs \$44.75, plus \$4.50 per order for insured shipping and handling. New Jersey residents should add 6-percent sales tax. American collectors can order the coin from the Mint of Finland's distributor, The Coin & Currency Institute, P.O. Box 1057, Clifton, NJ 07014, telephone toll-free 800/421-1866; fax 201/471-1062; or E-mail coincurin@aol.com.



PEACE THROUGH COINAGE

A numismatic initiative for the Year 2000

This year a bill will be introduced in Congress proposing that the United States strike a special commemorative coin promoting world peace in the next millennium. The movement already has considerable backing and, after the necessary formalities, could move along swiftly.

No specific design has been discussed, but a silver dollar has been proposed. It would be the size of the old, 1½-inch dollar coin and contain 26.73g of 90-percent silver. Although the coin would not circulate, it would be legal tender.

An issue of 500,000 coins is anticipated. This seems to be the "magic number" for a complete sellout of popular issues in the commemorative series. It is likely that both proof and uncirculated coins will be made at one or more mints.

An unusual feature of the proposal is that no special surcharge would be attached to these coins other than a small profit going directly to the government. No agency or cause will share in the profit; thus the issue price will be as low as possible for a commemorative coin offering in the primary market. Hopefully this will mark the beginning of a time when surcharges will be lowered or eliminated from all commemorative coins, and the issue prices returned to a more enticing level.

—Kenneth Bressett



Actual Size: 35mm

The centennial of the birth of "The Flying Finn," one of the greatest track athletes of all time, is celebrated on a 1997 Finland 100 markkaa.

UNITED KINGDOM:

£1 Silver Proof Displays Historic Lions of England

The 1997 United Kingdom £1 silver proof, produced by the British Royal Mint, carries the royal crest of England—three lions passant guardant. The coin is the fourth and last issue in a series of £1 pieces featuring reverses representing Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England. Originally adopted by Richard I (the Lion-heart), the three lions have appeared on the arms of every English monarch for more than 800 years.

Mintage of the proof .925 fine silver £1 is limited to 30,000 coins. A mintage of 10,000 double-thickness piedfort proofs also has been authorized. (The piedfort historically was given as a gift by the monarch to



Actual Size: 22.5mm

The 1997 United Kingdom £1 coin, featuring three lions passant guardant representing England, is available in sterling silver proof (9.5g) or double-thickness piedfort (19g). The coin's edge is inscribed DECUS ET TUTAMEN ("An ornament and a safeguard").

bestow favor.)

The sterling silver proof £1 is priced at \$38.95; the piedfort proof is \$74.50. Please add \$4.95 postage and handling per order (New York

residents should add sales tax). Direct orders to British Royal Mint, P.O. Box 772570, Woodside, NY 11377-2570, telephone toll-free 800/221-1215.

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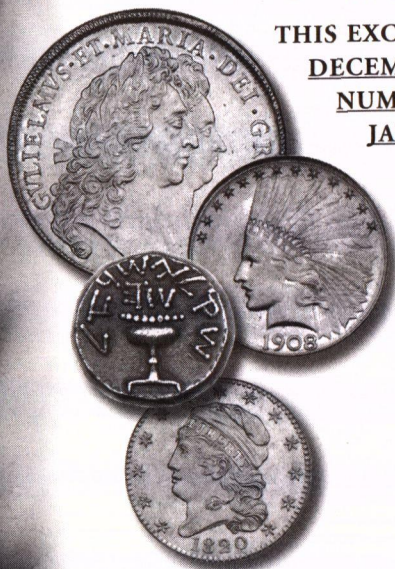
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NUMISMATIC NARRATIVES

Coins in Wonderland

If you ever find yourself in Malaysia, you must not miss one of Kuala Lumpur's main attractions: Mines Wonderland. Once the world's largest source of tin, these 200 acres have been transformed into a popular recreation area.

Comments Georg Förster, an active ANA member from Germany who visited Malaysia earlier this year, "This spectacular playground is set against a lush, green landscape, complete with tranquil lakes, and provides a refreshing getaway from the booming capital."

The park also boasts a beautiful—and unusual—sculpture garden. Situated among the colorful flower beds, palm trees and manicured lawns are 11 large replicas of coins, among them a German mark, a Chinese yuan and five Malaysian issues.



Mines Wonderland, a lush recreational park in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, features a larger-than-life "Coin Garden."

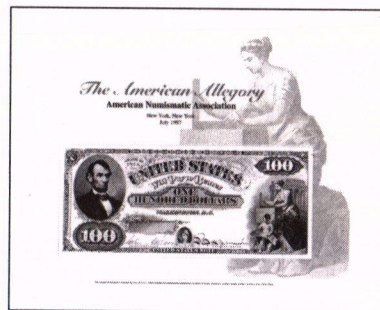
GEORG FÖRSTER

The centerpiece is a ringgit, which pictures a *kris*, a Malay dagger symbolic of authority and power.

Förster notes that Malaysia is proud of its heritage and encourages public interest in its national currency. "I was impressed by the garden and its approach to presenting numismatics," he says. "As I watched a group of inquisitive children, I wondered if this feature of the park was just a gimmick or a way to acquaint people with coin collecting. Hopefully," concludes Förster, "the answer is *both*."

BEP Prints Souvenir Card for ANA Show

An unissued \$100 note engraved by Louis Delnoce in 1869 appears on a souvenir card produced by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) especially for the ANA's 106th Anniversary Convention in New York City this summer. In keeping with the BEP's theme for 1997, "The American Allegory," the note pictures President Abraham



A souvenir card issued by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on the occasion of the ANA's 106th Anniversary Convention pictures an unissued \$100 note engraved by Louis Delnoce in 1869.

U.S. BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

Lincoln and a figure of Lady Liberty protecting a small child, representing a war-torn nation's desire for a revitalized America.

The souvenir card (#97020) is available by mail for \$6.50; a U.S. Postal Service-canceled specimen (#97021) is priced at \$6.80. Address orders to BEP, Public Sales Office, Room 515M, 14th and "C" Sts. S.W., Washington, DC 20228.

Internet Acquaints Collector with Rare Coin

Hancock & Harwell, a rare coin investment firm in Atlanta, recently announced the sale of a rare 1861-D \$5 gold coin produced by the United States Mint in Dahlonega, Georgia. The coin sold for more than \$160,000, the highest price ever paid for a Dahlonega product.

During the Civil War, the Confederacy seized the mint and turned a portion of the uncoined gold into dollars and half eagles dated 1861. Although the mint has long since burned down, the few surviving coins serve as a reminder of the early days of American coinage.

The buyer of the coin became ac-

quainted with it and the historic Dahlonga Mint during a visit to Hancock & Harwell's web site on the Internet (info@raregold.com). Says partner Bob Harwell, "Collectors once depended on numismatic publications to learn about the availability of certain coins. Today, the Internet creates instant access to a world of coins, and has measurably enhanced interest in coin collecting as a hobby and an investment."

PCGS Awards \$5,000 College Scholarship

The Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) has selected an 18-year-old Louisiana student to receive a \$5,000 college scholarship. Jeremy Haag of Marrero, Louisiana, was the grand prize winner in the second an-

nual PCGS Young Numismatists Essay Contest. The prize included a free trip to the ANA's convention in New York City, July 30-August 3. His composition, "American Wartime Coinage," was chosen from 31 essays submitted by high school students from across the country. Haag plans to study chemical engineering at Texas A&M University.

New Gallery Opens at British Museum

A donation from HSBC Holdings, one of the world's largest banking companies, has enabled London's British Museum to dedicate a new gallery to the history of money, tracing its myriad forms and uses over the last 4,500 years.

Numismatic author and collector



Not Actual Size

A new gallery at London's British Museum traces the history of coinage. Among the many impressive items on display is a beautiful ancient silver coin depicting Juno Moneta (left) and an intricately detailed, gold triple unite (£3) of Charles I (right).

HSBC MONEY GALLERY

Derick McGroarty, who had occasion to view the gallery shortly after its opening, was "especially attracted to a Roman silver coin (circa 45 B.C.) bearing the head of the goddess Juno Moneta." He notes that



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the word "moneta" came to be associated with money because coins once were made at the goddess' temple. McGroarty also was impressed with a gold triple unite (£3) of Charles I (1644), an exquisite example of the minter's art.

For additional information about the British Museum, visit its web site at www.british-museum.ac.uk, or contact the museum at Great Russell St., London WC1B 3DG, England, telephone 171-636-1555.

Canada Strikes Gold for Hong Kong

The Royal Canadian Mint has struck 97,000 22kt-gold \$1,000 coins in honor of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of

China. The commemorative \$1,000 coin is the first issued by the new region and the first produced for Hong Kong by other than the British Royal Mint. The contract was awarded by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority; the coin, priced at \$738, was released in July. To place a credit card order, call 800/267-1871.

Medals Celebrate NY Numismatic Heritage

Stack's Rare Coins, a New York numismatic firm that has served collectors for three generations, has issued two medals commemorating the importance of New York in the history of United States coinage. Struck in bronze, silver and gold for distribution to Stack's clientele, the pieces celebrate Ephraim Brasher's famous

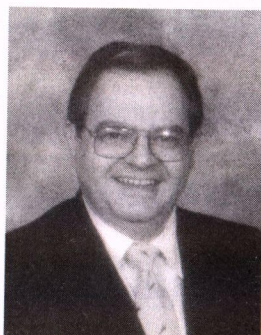


Actual Size: 39.8mm

Medals produced by Stack's Rare Coins celebrate the ANA's 106th Anniversary Convention and the coinage history of New York.

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gold doubloon, the 1787 New York Excelsior copper, and the ANA World's Fair of Money®, held in Manhattan at the end of July.



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6. To find the Postage Fee, add \$10 per package plus 25¢ per coin over 10 coins. (Example: On 15 coins the postage is \$11.25). To find the Service Fee, multiply the number of coins submitted on the form by the Tier price selected.
7. Add the Total Postage Fee to the Total Service Fee and write a check for the Total Amount Due. Make your check payable to the American Numismatic Association. On the submission form include the check number then sign/date the form as indicated.
8. Pack your coins carefully, including the submission form and a check for payment. If you're sending more than one submission form, please pack the appropriate coins and submission forms together using a rubber band or other method. Be sure your package is properly registered and insured for delivery to the ANA.

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Untangling the Tale of the Midnight Minter

Researchers have been led astray by the colorful story of Theodore Eckfeldt surreptitiously striking numismatic rarities for sale to 19th-century collectors.

THEODORE ECKFELDT STANDS accused of using equipment belonging to the United States Mint to strike coins for sale to collectors. Among the rarities attributed to him is the unique "plain edge" 1804 dollar. For his alleged clandestine activities, he has been dubbed the "Midnight Minter."

Since 1962, writers have based their conclusions with respect to the identity of the surreptitious minter on evidence presented by Eric P. Newman and Kenneth E. Bressett in their book *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*. The authors were careful to differentiate between fact and speculation, but unfortunately, like many legends, the Eckfeldt story has been retold as fact. It is time to retire the story, for it has led a generation of researchers in the wrong direction.

The Legend

THE ECKFELDT TALE has been told many times using the basic elements presented in Don Taxay's *U.S. Mint and Coinage*:

There was at this time in the Mint a young man named Theodore Eckfeldt, son of the foreman of the engraving room, George Eckfeldt, and nephew of the principal assayer Jacob Eckfeldt. Theodore had first been hired as a youth, and served in the coining department under Franklin Peale. According to McCulloh's testimony, Peale confided that he had discharged the young man for stealing. Nevertheless, about a month after the incident Peale, together with the boy's grandfather Adam Eckfeldt, wrote an affidavit testifying to Theodore's honesty and worth, so that he could procure other

by Pete Smith
ANA 122148



Twentieth-century writers have accused Theodore Eckfeldt of peddling 1804 dollars in Philadelphia.

ANA MUSEUM

work. A few years later, an additional workman was needed for the Mint, and among the applicants was Theodore Eckfeldt, now a married man and still armed with the affidavit of his grandfather and chief coiner Peale. On the strength of this reference, Theodore was rehired and became once more a regular employee. In fact, he was reassigned to Franklin Peale, who placed him on night watch, a post of trust and extra compensation.

Sometime during 1858, Theodore's fancy turned toward the 1804 dollar dies. Either on his own, or in connivance with other Mint employees, he stole the dies and struck off several pieces, peddling them around town for \$75 each.

The legend has three basic components: 1) Eckfeldt was fired for stealing, then rehired as a night watchman; 2) as a night watchman, Eckfeldt had access to Mint equipment and restruck 1804 dollars; and 3) Eckfeldt sold the restrikes to collectors in the Philadelphia area. The evidence supporting these elements will be analyzed after a brief introduction to the Eckfeldt family and the coins attributed to the Midnight Minter.

The Eckfeldts—A Family in Service to the Mint

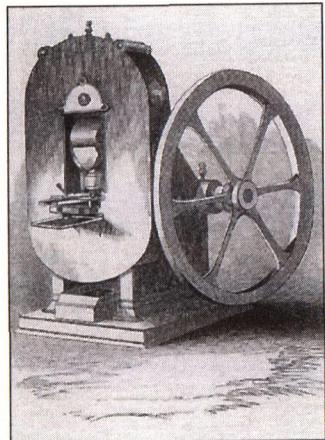
THE ECKFELDT FAMILY provided faithful service to the U.S. Mint for more than 133 consecutive years, thus sorting out the role of each member occasionally is confusing. The family traces its American roots to a German immigrant, John Jacob Eckfeldt (1733-1818). John Jacob had two sons, Adam (1769-1852, born to John Jacob and Marie Schnieder) and Michael (1779-1833, born to John Jacob and Elizabeth Kunckle). Adam served in various positions at the Mint from 1796 until his death.

Two members of the third generation also worked for the Mint. Jacob Reese Eckfeldt (1803-72, son of Adam and Margaretta Bausch) served as assayer from 1832 until his death. George J. Eckfeldt (1805-64, son of Michael) was foreman of the coining room from 1830 until after 1860.

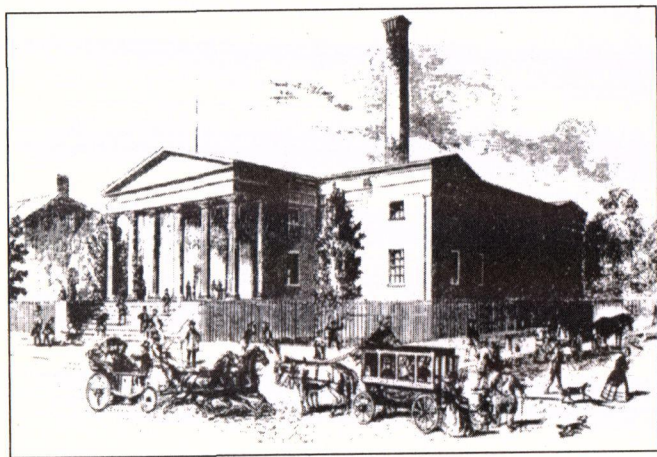
Of the fourth generation, three members served the Mint. George's son Theodore W. Eckfeldt (1837-93) was mentioned earlier; another son, John M. Eckfeldt (1831-74), was chief coiner at the San Francisco Mint from 1854 to 1862. Jacob Reese's son Frederick (1839-?) was a Mint employee after 1856.

The Midnight Minter's Works

NUMISMATIC RESEARCHER WALTER Breen stated in his 1983 reference on half cents that Theodore Eckfeldt, along with unnamed accomplices, took dies out of the locked vaults and restruck several of these issues, including those dated from 1840 to 1848. In his *Com-*



Theodore Eckfeldt reportedly was assigned as night watchman at the Philadelphia Mint (below), "a duty of trust and extra compensation." Did he have access to Mint machinery, and did he possess the skills to run it?



. . . NO COINS HAVE been found struck from pairs of clashed dies. . . . They are known only from a clashed die mated with a good die of the same denomination.

.....

plete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins, Breen credits Theodore with restriking the rare 1827 quarter.

An unprecedented group of dies for 1857 coinage is found clashed with dies of other denominations. Curiously, no coins have been found struck from pairs of clashed dies; they are known only from one clashed die mated with a good die of the same denomination. Examples of dual-denomination clashes include Flying Eagle cent obverses that were combined with a Seated Liberty half dollar obverse, as well as with a Coronet \$20 obverse; and Flying Eagle cent reverses clashed with both a Seated Liberty quarter dollar obverse and a Seated Liberty quarter reverse. Such die clashes could not occur during normal operations. Having no other logical explanation, researchers have suggested that somehow Theodore Eckfeldt managed to clash the dies while striking coins that don't exist.

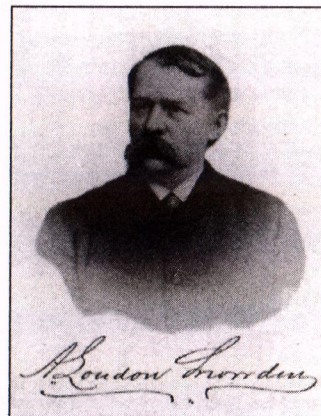
Fired for Stealing?

THE MCCULLOH MENTIONED by Taxay was Richard Sears McCulloh, who published testimony critical of Franklin Peale. His version of the story includes many of the same elements, but with a few, critical differences:

I will narrate an incident which took place while I was an officer of the Mint. The services of an additional workman were needed in the melting department, and I had been authorized by the Director to nominate to him a suitable person. Among the applicants for the position there was a young married man, whose grandfather had been, and whose father and uncle, each then was a highly esteemed workman of the Mint; and he had himself been employed, while a boy, in the coining department, under Mr. Peale. Of this young man I thought favorably; and among the testimonials which he brought to me, there was one written some years previously by Mr. Peale, signed by him and the late Adam Eckfeldt, and which certified to his honesty and worth of the young man. His father informed me that it had been given to aid him in procuring a situation in a store, about a month after he had been discharged from the Mint by Mr. Peale; and that this discharge of his son had not been occasioned by any improper behavior, but took place in consequence of a determination of the coiner not to have boys in the Mint.

I therefore went to Mr. Peale and inquired of him what he knew of the young man. He replied that he could tell me in a very few words, that he did not wish much said about it, but that he had discharged him for stealing. My

continued on page 1049



According to A. Loudon Snowden, superintendent of the Mint in 1880, during a previous administration (that of his uncle, James Ross Snowden), "an old employee of the Mint . . . was discovered by the sales made by an erring son, to have taken impressions from 1804, and some other dies."

Cracks and Breaks in Dies, Collars and Hubs

Some collectors of United States coins are drawn to errors that display cracks or breaks, in part because of their dramatic appearance and relative scarcity.

by James Wiles
ANA 155294

WHEN METAL IS placed under hundreds of tons of pressure for any length of time, it eventually breaks down. Metal coinage hubs, dies and collars are no exception. During the process of making dies and striking coins, the metal in the hub, die and collar flows to the areas of least resistance, and cracks often form at the points of greatest stress. These stress points vary, depending on the coin design, but usually occur between the central design element and the rim.

(For those new to the hobby, a "hub" is a cylindrical piece of steel with a raised obverse or reverse design of a coin on one end. It is used to produce a recessed, or incuse, mirror image of the design on a "die," which, in turn, is impressed on a planchet to create a coin. A "collar" is a metal ring that retains the planchet during striking.)

A crack on a hub produces the same effect on the resultant coins—it transfers to the dies as a raised line, which becomes an *incuse* line on the coin. Having just the opposite effect is a die crack, which transfers to a coin as a *raised* line.

As production continues, a crack lengthens and widens until eventually a piece of metal breaks away. Small breaks generally are called "chips," while the term "break" is reserved for larger pieces.



Head-to-rim die crack: Found primarily on Lincoln cents, the crack creates what often is referred to as a "Spiked Head."

Adapted from *U.S. Minting Errors and Varieties: An ANA Correspondence Course*, written by James Wiles and published by the American Numismatic Association's School of Numismatics (1997).

DIE CRACKS ARE extremely common. As such, only those coins that display strong, long or otherwise prominent cracks command a premium.

.....



Rim-to-rim die crack: As a crack grows, it can extend from one portion of the rim to another.

Die Crack Varieties

AS MENTIONED, DIE cracks show up on coins as raised, irregular lines, usually found at stress points. They may appear in the design or in the fields, usually extending from the design into the field and often to the rim.

Die cracks are extremely common. As such, only those coins that display strong, long or otherwise prominent cracks command a premium.

Head-to-rim die crack: This type of die crack can be found in most denominations, although it predominates in the Lincoln cent series. Literally hundreds of "Spiked Heads" have been cataloged. This variety was actively collected in the 1960s and 1970s, but waned with the increased interest in doubled dies and repunched mintmarks in the 1980s.

Rim-to-rim die crack: In this case, the die crack connects two points on the rim. These points may be at opposite edges of the die or close together.

Split die: A sub-category of the rim-to-rim die crack, this anomaly appears as a thick, raised line across the face of the coin, usually displacing the design.

Collar Crack Varieties

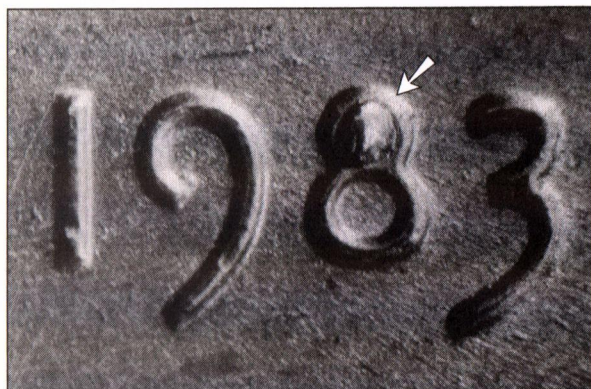
THE COLLAR SOMETIMES is referred to as the "third die." It, too, receives a certain amount of stress during the striking process and has been known to crack under the pressure. Coins struck within a cracked collar exhibit a raised line on the edge.



Split die: As a rim-to-rim die crack deepens and widens, it creates a thick, raised line across the entire face of the coin, frequently displacing the design.

DIE CHIPS AND breaks are common, especially on Lincoln cents, no doubt because of the sheer number of coins produced.

.....



Die chip and die break: Often found in recessed areas of certain letters or numbers, a die chip (top) appears as a small, irregular blob of metal on the coin's face. A die break (bottom) produces a noticeably larger blob.

Hub Crack Varieties

JUST LIKE DIES, hubs can crack when overused or improperly annealed (softened by heating). Coins struck from dies made from cracked hubs show a shallow, rounded, incuse line across the face. However, it should be noted that no hub cracks are known on United States coinage.

Die Break Errors

DIE CHIPS AND breaks are common, especially on Lincoln cents, no doubt because of the sheer number of coins produced. Several pamphlets and at least one major book, Jean Cohen's *Classification and Value of Errors on the Lincoln Cent*, are devoted to these Lincoln cent varieties.

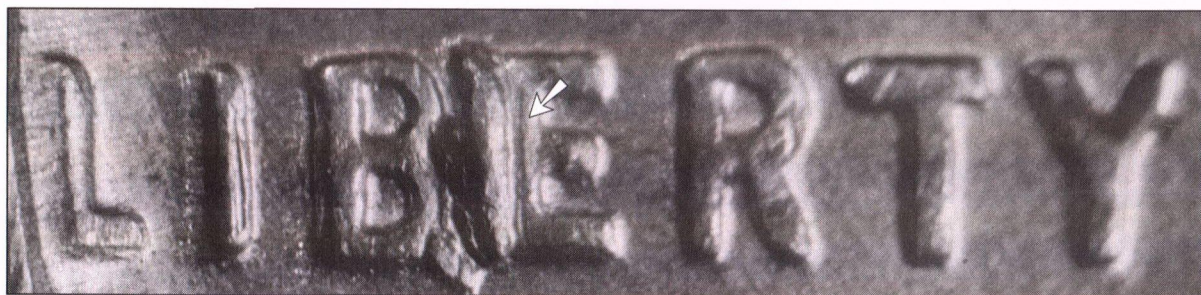
Die chip: A die chip appears as a small, irregular blob of metal on the face of the coin, usually at a stress point in the design. Chips most often are evident in the recesses of letters or numbers. On the die, these recessed areas are raised—and vulnerable. It does not take much stress before these areas start to break off.

Die break: On the face of a coin, a die break appears as a large, irregular blob of metal, most often in the field between the design and the rim, a common stress point. A break occurs when multiple cracks meet (as in a circle) or extend to the rim.

The metal within the borders of the cracks begins to break away from the die. In some cases, the broken piece may not fall away, remaining loose but in place during striking. Coins produced from such dies will show a depression where the chip or break has occurred.

"BIE" die break: In this instance, a die break occurred between the B and E of LIBERTY on the Lincoln cent, creating what appears to be an additional letter I. (Technically, only a break between these two letters qualifies as a "BIE"; however, the term has come to apply to a die break between any of the letters of LIBERTY.)

"Bar" die break: This type of break affects Jefferson nickels (primarily the 1960-D and 1961-D) and manifests itself as a bar across the top of the letters of LIBERTY and the digits of the date. A number of exam-



"BIE" die break: The word LIBERTY on this Lincoln cent looks as if it has an extra letter I between the B and E.

ples exist with just a single bar, but as many as seven bars on a single coin have been reported.

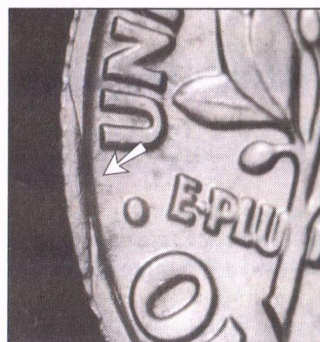
Rim die break: This error is characterized by a blob of metal on the rim of the coin. (By definition, the rim does not include the field or denticles. Should the break extend into these areas, causing a piece to fall away from the die, it is classified as a major die break, or "cud.") Rim die breaks are fairly common and rarely command a premium.

Retained broken die: A sub-category of the previously mentioned split die, this error occurs when the die breaks along a split, but is held in place either because it is not fully separated or because it is part of the anvil, or bottom, die. The anvil die (for Lincoln cents this is the reverse die) is surrounded by the collar, which acts as a retaining wall for the broken die. On coins produced from such dies, the broken portion looks like a plateau. (Coins that have raised areas extending to the rim commonly are called "retained cuds.")

Major die break: As noted above, when a piece of a split die breaks completely and falls away, the resulting error commonly is called a "cud." Because of the lack of die pressure in this area, the planchet metal flows into the void, yielding a weakened image on the opposite side of the coin. Cuds most often are found on Lincoln cents, but are known on other denominations as well (although they are rare on dollars and half dollars). Generally, the larger the die break, the higher the premium commanded for the coin.

Retained broken center: Once in a great while, a malfunction in the annealing process causes the face of a die to harden and become brittle, while the shank retains its softness. Under the stress of striking coins, the die face begins to sink into the softer shank, eventually separating the center from the rim portion. This error is extremely rare.

Laminated die: Layers of die metal have been known to split and peel up (laminates) during coin production, allowing planchet metal to flow underneath. Coins struck from a laminated die show a die crack with a corresponding depression where the laminated die was forced up against the planchet. Examples are extremely rare.



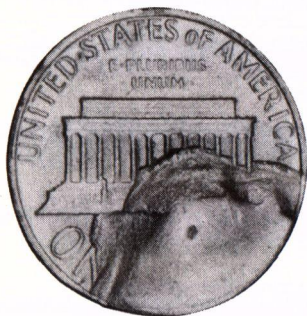
Rim die break: A raised area of metal along the edge of a coin is indicative of a rim die break.



Retained broken die: Coins struck by a die from which a piece has broken but not fallen away display a flat, raised area.

A BREAK IN a hub affects many working dies and the coins they produce. Such coins generally are missing a portion of their design . . .

.....



Major die break: When a piece of a split die completely falls away, it results in an error commonly called a "cud."

Chipped chrome plating: Dies for United States proof coinage are plated with a thin layer of chrome. This produces a smoother, shinier coin and increases die life. A chip in the plating on the die shows up as a low, raised area on the coin.

Hub Break Errors

A BREAK IN a hub affects many working dies and the coins they produce. Such coins generally are missing a portion of their design, or they may exhibit an incuse area in the field.

An example is the 1936 Lincoln cent. The left leg of the R in LIBERTY on the hub was chipped, an error that was transferred to the working dies. Cents struck from those dies show only a partial R in the legend.

Collar Break Errors

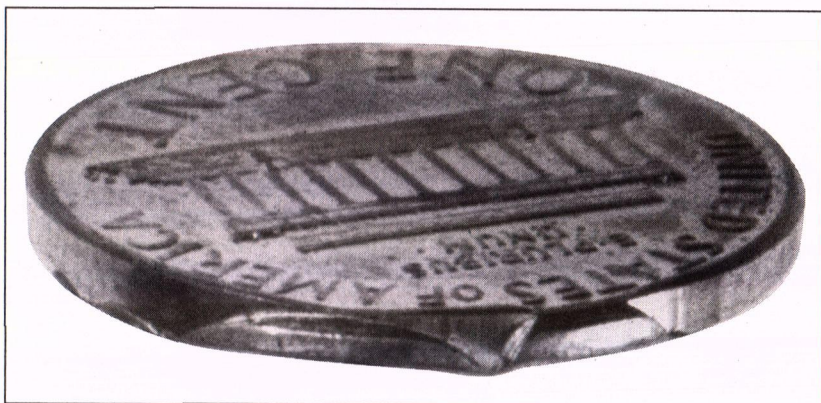
THOUGH THE COLLAR is lined with tungsten steel, like a die, it can chip, break and split.

Collar break: A coin struck in a broken collar shows raised areas of metal on its edge. It is not perfectly round.

Split collar: Sometimes a collar splits, producing less-than-round coins with two raised areas of metal—one at each end of the split. Both collar breaks and split collars are collected as "collar cuds."

Hub break: Coins struck from dies produced by broken hubs are characterized by missing portions of their design or an incuse area in the field.





Collar break: Raised areas of metal along a coin's edge are indicative of a broken collar.

Broken letter or digit: The incuse lettering on the edges of some coins is imparted by a collar die. The letters and digits on the die are raised and thus susceptible to damage. If one of these elements chips or breaks, all coins struck with that damaged collar die will exhibit broken or missing letters or digits.

The use of a broken punch in the production of the collar *hub* results in coins similar to those struck by broken dies. In this case, however, a much greater number of coins will exhibit missing letter and digits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about collecting errors and varieties, contact the Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error Collectors of America (CONECA), c/o Membership Director, 9017 Topperwind Court, Ft. Worth, TX 76134. •

Dr. James Wiles is a noted collector of die varieties, including doubled dies and repunched mintmarks. A numismatist for more than 30 years, he began to specialize in errors and varieties in the late 1970s.



Split collar: Coins struck from a split collar have two raised areas of metal—one at each end of the split.

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PCGS is launching a new program to enable everyone to have easier access to PCGS grading and provide all rare coin enthusiasts with important marketplace information. The program is in the form of a membership organization... The PCGS Collectors Club.

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The monthly PCGS Population Report is one of the most important publications in the rare coin market. The "Pop Report" is a complete census of the more than 4,000,000 coins that have been graded by PCGS. The PCGS Population Report is the best way to compare the relative rarity of important coins. At any major coin show you'll hear dealers continually asking "What's the Pop?" before buying a coin. And the "Pop" they are referring to is the figure in the PCGS Population Report. All members of the PCGS Collectors Club receive one free copy of the PCGS Population Report.

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Two Ways to Safeguard Your Prooflike Dollars

Ever-present in our atmosphere, hydrogen sulfide gas may be a silver coin's worst enemy. Fortunately, measures can be taken to protect against this hazard.

by Weimar W. White
ANA 103956

COLLECTORS ARE INTRIGUED by the appearance of prooflike Morgan dollars. To a silver dollar aficionado, a mint-state, "deep mirror prooflike" (DMPL) coin is a thing of beauty. Even third-party grading services give such coins special recognition, depending on their degree of reflectivity. This is measured by the number of inches of newspaper print or some other object reflected in a coin's fields. Of the three major grading services—ANACS, Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) and Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS)—only ANACS classifies Morgan dollars as having "ultra deep mirror prooflike" (UDMPL) surfaces, with reflectivity equal to or greater than 12 inches.

In 1994 I made a statistical survey of these dollars and found that approximately 2,400 UDMPLs exist per million mint-state coins. Of these, only 241 grade MS-65 or better.

The Menace of Hydrogen Sulfide Gas

WITH YOUR ROLE as a collector and caretaker of prooflike Morgan dollars comes a responsibility to keep contaminants, such as hydrogen sulfide gas (H_2S), away from these special artifacts. AT&T Bell Laboratories has measured the amount of hydrogen sulfide in indoor, urban environments and generally found it to range from 0.1 to 10 parts per billion (ppb). However, in certain industrial areas, particularly those near manholes, oil fields, pulp mills or sewage-treatment plants, concentrations of H_2S have exceeded 100,000 ppb.

In the laboratory, the firm found that the thickness of corrosion



For collectors of Morgan dollars, an "ultra deep mirror prooflike" (UDMPL) specimen is a sight to behold. If not properly stored, such a coin can lose its prooflike qualities.

AUTHOR'S COLLECTION



An inexpensive yet effective way to protect an encapsulated coin against tarnishing is to seal it, along with some new copper cents, in a plastic bag. Any hydrogen sulfide gas in the bag will react first with the cents.

forming on copper, silver and bronze was a factor of the hydrogen sulfide concentration and the duration of exposure. Additionally, the findings showed that copper exposed to 1 ppb H_2S for a year will develop a sulfide film about 50 nanometers thick. It is reasonable to assume that silver dollars exposed to a hydrogen sulfide atmosphere would, over a year's time, grow a sulfide film of equal thickness.

Needless to say, a sulfide film of this magnitude significantly affects the prooflike characteristics of a Morgan dollar. As sulfide layers grow, the color of the silver changes to yellow, to gold, to reddish, to purple, to blue and eventually to black. A black coin has little, if any, measurable reflectivity.

If not properly stored, a UDMPL dollar can lose its outstanding reflectivity. It is possible to crack a coin out of its case and dip it in a thiourea solution to restore some of its prooflike qualities. However, the coin will not be as reflective as it was before its exposure to hydrogen sulfide.

Coin Holders: Airtight or Not?

AT THE INVITATION of the weekly publication *Coin World*, I conducted an experiment whereby randomly selected silver dollars (encapsulated in plastic holders by ANACS, NGC and PCGS) were exposed to high levels of hydrogen sulfide. The end result was that over time all the coins showed some degree of tarnish.

However, even though the holders tested were not airtight, they all offered some degree of protection against H_2S tarnishing. (To determine

I HAVE FOUND two effective means of keeping my . . . silver dollars in pristine condition. Each is based on the reduction or elimination of H_2S . . .

.....



Copper-impregnated Corrosion Intercept™ bags protect their contents by neutralizing harmful gases. The encapsulated coin above is shown inside a "50/50 Intercept" bag, which features a clear panel and zipper closure.

if a holder is airtight, place your mouth on an edge seam; if you can suck air through it, the case is not airtight.) The degree of tarnish sustained by a coin encapsulated in a holder that is not airtight depends on the storage environment. Obviously an atmosphere containing 0.1 ppb H_2S is less harmful than one containing 10 ppb H_2S .

Two Methods of Protection

I HAVE FOUND two effective means of keeping my proof-like, encapsulated silver dollars in pristine condition. Each is based on the reduction or elimination of H_2S in the atmosphere by allowing it to react with copper before it reacts with the coin.

Method 1 involves sealing the encapsulated coin and a few common, Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) cents in a Hefty OneZip™ food storage bag (available at your local supermarket). Any hydrogen sulfide that finds its way into the polyethylene bag will react first with the copper cents, leaving little gas to tarnish the silver coin. If, over time, the cents darken

from their exposure to H_2S , replace them with new BU specimens.

Method 2 (introduced to *Coin World* readers in August 1995 by columnist Susan Maltby) employs Corrosion Intercept™ polymer bags, developed by AT&T Bell Laboratories to neutralize corrosive gases and prevent tarnish and decay. The plastic is impregnated with copper that reacts with H_2S before the gas can tarnish the coins inside. The bags are available in a variety of sizes (with and without zipper closures) and are priced from 16 to 80 cents each, depending on the quantity ordered. The "Full Intercept" bag is opaque, with copper-impregnated plastic on both sides; a "50/50 Intercept" bag has one clear side and one copper side. The 50/50 bags reportedly protect coins from sulfur corrosion for a minimum of 5 years, while the Full Intercept bags offer 10 years of protection. (For more information about purchasing Corrosion Intercept bags, contact Engineered Materials, Inc., P.O. Box 390, 30 Main St., Raritan, NJ 08869, fax 908/707-0037.)

Conclusion

AS NOTED, HYDROGEN sulfide can severely diminish the reflectivity of a prooflike Morgan dollar by creating a film on its surface. Encapsu-

continued on page 1069

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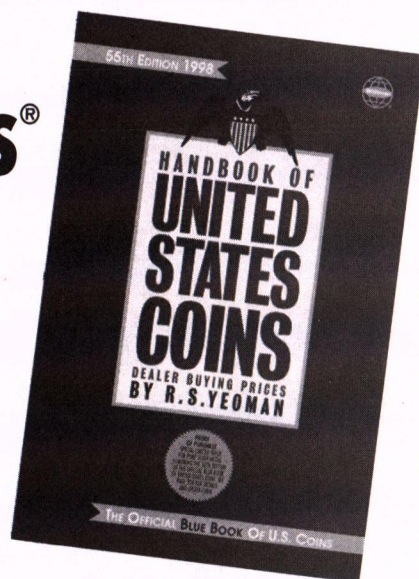
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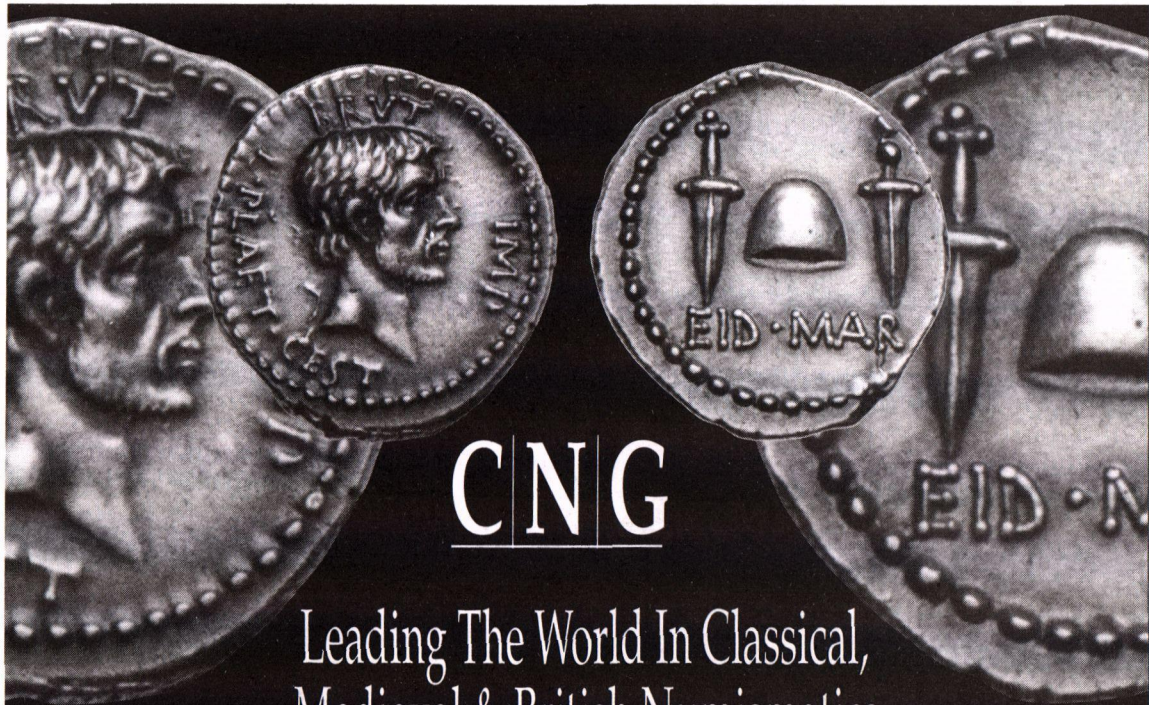
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Gold as a Commodity in West Africa

Extracted by ancient miners using unsophisticated tools, gold was adopted as a medium of exchange across the African continent to India and Europe.

AFTER THE LATE 6th century B.C., the Greeks, Phoenicians and Romans, in turn, introduced their coinage systems into their colonies that bordered coastal North Africa. After the 11th century A.D., the strong Islamic influence did the same along the Red Sea and East African coast. Before the arrival of these newcomers, the indigenous peoples of Africa had a different concept of money.

Exchange always existed, and barter was the simplest, most direct way for goods to pass from one person to another. However, articles chosen for barter had to be sturdy and in steady supply. Whether used as monetary items or ornamentation, they had to further a personal sense of esteem.

The Components of Barter

SALT BECAME AN important item of trade everywhere in Africa. Rock salt in particular was highly sought because of its crystalline structure and durability. However, it was difficult to extract, making it rare and therefore valuable enough to serve as currency to be exchanged, weight for weight, for gold.

West Africa had few natural resources that could be exploited commercially using simple technology. Crop export was limited to the kola nut, a natural stimulant from the forests. It was in demand not only in the region, but also in distant Islamic communities, and was most desirable for barter. Iron ores were widespread, and concentrations in most tropical soils were easily worked. There generally was little incentive to trade in iron, however, with the exception of specialist smiths and

by Rita Miller

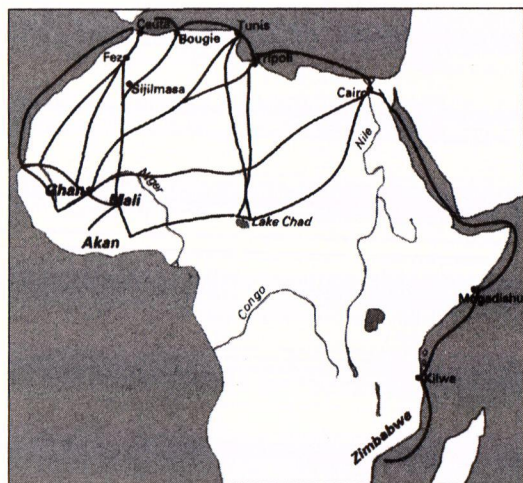


An important trade item in all parts of Africa, salt was so valuable it could be exchanged, weight for weight, for gold. Salt often was stored in bamboo baskets (pictured).

traders who sometimes bartered with their excess produce.

Copper was sufficiently scarce to form the foundation for regional trade networks. As an alloy, copper was essential to gold mining operations in the West African forests, but there were no workable bodies of copper ore in the area. Copper probably came from the region now known as Zambia or Zimbabwe, then part of a wide, territorial exchange network. The metal frequently was cast in rods of sufficiently standardized weight to be interpreted as forms of currency.

It was gold, however, that most attracted foreign traders to West Africa, where deposits flowed through the many rivers of the plateaus. In those gold fields—none of which were rich—the metal occurred in pockets of alluvial gravel (that is, small stones and pebbles precipitated by flooding on seashores or riverbanks).



By the Middle Ages, gold trade routes carried the precious metal by land and sea from West Africa to the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

Gold Mining and Processing

WASHING THE GOLD from the deposits was an arduous, difficult and dangerous task, even when the metal lay practically on the surface. Woven baskets were used to separate the ore from the gravel (employing a procedure similar to panning); the ore was then placed in gourds and transported to the processing area.

Processing of the ore resembled the common domestic chore of preparing cereal foods and required only simple tools. Stones were used to break up the ore, which then was milled with grindstones of the same basic shape as domestic grain mills. As such, ore processing likely was women's responsibility.

Mining, although less time-consuming than the milling process, was miserable work, carried out reluctantly and only when in need. The sources were diffuse, the yields unreliable. Few villagers could depend on mining for a regular income; it generally was undertaken by farmers in slack agricultural seasons. Because luck played a great part in the actual rewards for labor, it was impossible to develop and control regular forms of production.

Despite that Early Iron Age farmers were nearly self-sufficient toward the end of the 1st millennium A.D., almost all such communities possessed glass beads, cowrie shells and copper trinkets from the Indian Ocean regions. In exchanging for these foreign goods, part-time miners developed an export trade in their unwanted gold products. In the 10th century A.D., Arab geographer al Musudi first recorded the arrival of the precious metal (which came by camel caravan from the interior) on the east coast of Africa, near present-day Beira in Mozambique.

Mining being only marginally worthwhile, the mines themselves were not monopolies. The only form of control rested with the ritualists of nearby villages who intervened to appease the spirits of the earth. Some

THE ONLY PEOPLE to grow rich on the proceeds of West African gold were the middlemen who interposed between the miners . . . and the traders . . .

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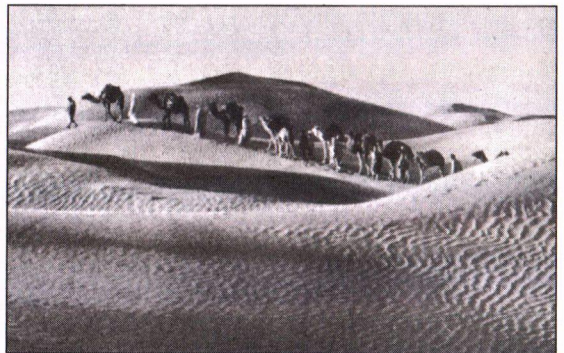
local chiefs employed slaves to mine on their behalf, giving the rulers a slight advantage but no special rights over the mine.

Rulers of the kingdoms of West Africa learned that attempts to control gold production at its source were certain to fail. Such attempts led to immediate decline in or total cessation of production, as the miners preferred to labor as little as possible. Any efforts to extract surplus from miners in the form of tax or tribute meant that mining ceased. Their own needs satisfied, the people simply abandoned the mines and returned to their homes. At some point, the rulers and miners clearly reached a mutual understanding.

Trading in Gold and Gold Coinage

THE ONLY PEOPLE to grow rich on the proceeds of West African gold were the middlemen who interposed between the miners of the forests and the traders of the desert caravans, who traveled by camel across the Sahara Desert from East Africa to present-day Ghana, Nigeria and Mali. This meeting of miners and traders often was tenuous and indirect, and legends grew of a "silent trade," in which each side viewed only the goods, never one another. Traders laid out items for exchange in a forest clearing, then withdrew; the gold producers appeared, examined the offering, made their selections, left what they considered a suitable value of gold as barter, then withdrew; the traders returned—if they accepted the bargain, they removed the gold and disappeared. Those who controlled the new trade markets grew in wealth and power from dues, tolls, customs duties, and fees for arbitrating commercial disputes.

Although gold yielded uncertain profits, it did produce disposable wealth. The price of the precious metal was dependent on output, therefore production was, to some extent, regulated by major tribes outside the mining area (the buyers), who thus created an indebtedness among the miners that could be met only by continually producing and trading in gold. The gold was exported—solely by desert caravan—to towns on the Indian Ocean. From there it was transported to Arabia, the Gulf ports, India, Egypt and even Europe. The economy of the African interior was thereby unwittingly integrated into the world economy. Bartering with gold that emanated from the alluvial fields of West Africa



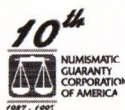
Gold was transported by desert caravan to towns on the Indian Ocean, traveling from there to Arabia, India, Egypt and Europe.

continued on page 1077

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Remembering Abner Kreisberg

THE NUMISMATIC WORLD was saddened to learn of the passing on July 10 of Abner Kreisberg, long-time rare coin dealer of the "old school." Life Member 181, Abner was presented his 50-year medal at the ANA convention in Anaheim in 1995.

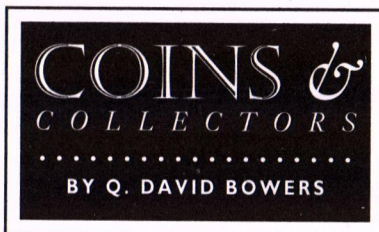
Although Abner officially retired a decade or so ago, he still enjoyed keeping in touch with his collector and dealer friends. From time to time, he would stop in to see Mike Moline, a younger dealer who runs a coin shop in Beverly Hills not far from where Abner's store had been.

Abner was one of the "greats" in the commercial sector of our hobby, right along with B. Max Mehl, S.H. and Henry Chapman, Thomas L. Elder, Joseph and Morton Stack, and others who have since passed from this earthly sphere.

Born on May 28, 1904, he had only a casual interest in rare coins until he was in his 30s. After dealing in jewelry, precious metals and other items for a time, in 1944 he signed on with veteran dealer Abe Kosoff and became a partner in the latter's Numismatic Gallery. Founded in New York City in 1937 by Kosoff, who had been dealing in coins since the summer of 1929, the Numismatic Gallery was a fast-rising star in the numismatic firmament. The company had already conducted a series of notable auction sales, beginning in 1940 with a consignment from Julius Gutttag.

From 1944 to 1948, the Numismatic Gallery was a leader in the rare coin market. A generous share of important collections and consignments came its way, most notably the incred-

ible silver and gold coins of Frederick C.C. Boyd. These were auctioned as "The World's Greatest Collection" in



1945 and 1946.

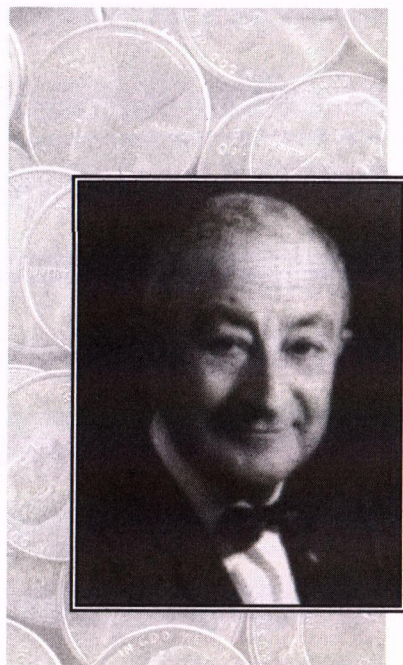
During the same era, the Numismatic Gallery was a prime supplier to King Farouk of Egypt. To finance his purchases, Farouk dipped into the Egyptian Treasury, but was restricted from spending \$10,000 or more without special approval. To circumvent these strictures, Farouk instructed the Numismatic Gallery to bill him for large transactions in \$9,999 increments, plus an additional invoice for the balance. Thus, a \$55,000 purchase would be accomplished by no less than six invoices!

Farouk was the firm's largest client during the decade, and by private treaty bought the Boyd collection of pattern coins and other notable properties for hundreds of thousands of dollars (which would be equivalent to millions of dollars today). A side venture, Coin Associates, was formed especially to sell coins to the king; Robert Friedberg joined Kosoff and Kreisberg as a partner. In another side venture, this time with Hans M. Schulman, a coin shop was opened in Gimbel's department store in New York City, and Joseph Silverman was hired to run it. During the 1940s, the Numismatic Gallery ran several ANA

convention auctions in addition to its other activities.

In 1948 Kosoff and Kreisberg, both of whom had spent their lives in New York, decided to move west. While Kreisberg held down the fort at the old store, Kosoff opened a shop at 8943 Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills. This arrangement proved ephemeral, and before long Abner packed up and moved to California to join his partner.

The first important auction conducted on the West Coast by Kosoff and Kreisberg was held on March 1-2, 1948. It was billed as "A Memorable Sale of United States and Territorial Gold Coins." The consignor was Jacob Shapiro, a.k.a. Jake Bell, a



Abner Kreisberg, who passed away on July 10, was one of the original authors of R.S. Yeoman's "Red Book."

Chicago financier. Shapiro was one of the first serious American collectors of large-denomination gold coins (\$5, \$10 and \$20) of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and over a period of time, he formed and sold several cabinets of these. At one time, he owned a precious 1933 double eagle.

In June 1950, the Numismatic Gallery offered the "Adolphe Menjou Collection." In actuality, most of the coins belonged to Charles M. Williams, a Cincinnati businessman who wanted to maintain a low profile.

In early 1951, the Numismatic Gallery relocated to 228 North Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills, where it remained for the rest of its existence. The store, which many old-timers may still remember, displayed in its window birth-year sets, proof coins and other popular (but not necessar-

ily valuable) items. Inside were glass cases containing a variety of coins, medals, notes and other items. Really rare and expensive items were housed in a large safe with multiple interior drawers. Partway back were small offices for the principals, and behind that, work and shipping areas. Upstairs was a storage area. At the time, North Beverly Drive was the most important of the side streets (off Wilshire Boulevard) in Beverly Hills (the fame of Rodeo Drive was still a quarter century away).

From the mid-1950s onward, I had the pleasure of knowing both Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg very well, and talking with them on numerous occasions about "the good old days." Both had many stories to tell. Over the years, I had many lunches and dinners with Abner in

the Friars Club in Beverly Hills, of which he was a member. On occasion, his wife, Gladys, would join us.

One of Abner's most poignant recollections was of a trip he made to San Francisco in the late 1940s or very early 1950s. Taking a DC-3 from Los Angeles in the morning, he soon arrived in the seaside town of Santa Barbara, the first stop on the flight. Since his San Francisco appointment was not until evening, he decided to spend a few hours in Santa Barbara, and had his ticket changed to a later flight. Meanwhile, his original flight crashed upon take-off from Santa Barbara, killing everyone on board. "After that time, I realized how precious life was," Abner later related. "The rest of my life has been a gift."

continued next month •



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HARRY W. BASS, JR. RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NIP INDEXES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation was brought into existence in December of 1991. The purpose of the Research Foundation is to keep intact in perpetuity rare and very significant collections of U.S. Numismatics to the end that they will be available to serious numismatists for purposes of education and research.

The foundation announced in early February, 1996, the availability of a set of electronic indexes for numismatists, which can be downloaded through the Internet at <http://www.hbrf.org>. Called NIP, for "Numismatic Indexes Project," these eleven indexes provide any student or researcher an instantaneous way of locating what the scholarship of the past century produced in major American numismatic periodicals. The indexes are in ASCII form and are made available free of charge to those interested in using this tool of research. Also under development are other areas of numismatic knowledge.

"Numismatic Literature" is a series published by the American Numismatic Society since 1946, listing publications and abstracts from around the world on a wide variety of numismatic topics. This 50-year span is being made available electronically (as time permits) for searching and research; the early years and the last several years are currently available, with more to come.

Other databases of numismatic information are also in process in order to make this a premier numismatic internet site for research and information.

For further information about the NIP project, please contact the address below, or E-mail the HBRF care of either
Harry Bass hwbass@hbrf.org or
Ed Deane eddeane@Cmpu.net

The Foundation presently owns over eight hundred items which are of significant interest to the scholar and student of United States Numismatics. The present collection consists of over two hundred fifty different specimens of large size U.S. paper currency, together with over five hundred United States pattern, experimental and trial pieces. The currency covers the period from the inception of U.S. currency at the beginning of the Civil War to the time it was withdrawn from circulation during the 1920s, at which time it was replaced by smaller bills.

The "Pattern" collection consists of an outstanding representation of this area of Numismatics which is so important to the researcher for a full understanding of the evolution of American coinage. Many specimens are quite rare, and all are in exemplary condition.

Persons interested in examining portions of the collections in pursuit of their numismatic research endeavors should check the internet site at <http://www.hbrf.org> or contact the Foundation office at 8333 Douglas Ave., Suite 1400, Dallas, Texas 75225, during normal office hours. Or, one may call (214) 696-0584 for more information.

"Old Ironsides" Appears on Medals

KNOWN AS "Old Ironsides," the U.S.S. *Constitution* remains an American treasure, despite 200 years of war and decay. She served four captains who earned Congressional gold medals and appears on the reverse of those medals, as well as on many others.

After the War of Independence, the American navy was disbanded, leaving merchant ships without protection. In 1785 the Algerian navy captured two American ships and sold the crews into slavery in Algiers. In 1793 four more ships were taken, but a 1795 treaty requiring America to pay an annual tribute provided temporary relief. The Dey of Algiers received \$1 million to release United States prisoners and stop attacking U.S. merchant ships.

To prevent more payments of this kind, Congress authorized on March 27, 1794, construction of the 44-gun U.S.S. *Constitution*. The frigate was designed by Joshua Humphries, built at the Harbors Naval Yard in Boston and launched on October 21, 1797. With her newly built sisters—the 44-gun *United States* and the 38-gun *Constellation*—America had warships to take on the Barbary pirates.

That same year, in response to a solicitation of bribes by French officials, America's minister to France, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746-1825), said, "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute." The statement inspired public opinion against tribute payments and inspired support for a strong navy that would cost less than the cost of tribute.

In 1800 Captain William Bainbridge, who captained the *George*

Washington, carried America's annual tribute to the Dey of Algiers. He later wrote, "I hope I may never

NAMES IN NUMISMATICS BY PETE SMITH

again be sent to Algiers with tribute unless I am authorized to deliver it from the mouth of our cannon."

The Pasha of Tripoli, however, was dissatisfied with U.S. payments and declared war on May 14, 1801. While pursuing enemy ships on October 31, 1803, the *Philadelphia*, under Bainbridge, was grounded on an uncharted reef off Tripoli and forced to surrender. Bainbridge and his crew of 315 were captured and interred until the end of the war. To prevent the ship from being used against U.S. shipping, American hero Stephen Decatur slipped into the harbor and burned the *Philadelphia* on February 15, 1804.

Captain Edward Preble, who had taken command of the *Constitution* in 1803, led an American squadron in a blockade of Tripoli. By June 4, 1805, after a U.S. naval bombardment, Tripoli was ready to negotiate a peace. Later that same year, Congress honored Preble with a gold medal.

Preble was born on August 15, 1761, at Falmouth (now Portland), Maine. He joined the Massachusetts state navy in 1778 and was captured by the British the following year. In

1800, as captain of the *Essex*, he took the first American warship around the Cape of Good Hope. Preble died in his home town on August 25, 1807.

In 1810 Captain Isaac Hull received command of the *Constitution* and first distinguished himself by avoiding a conflict on July 17, 1812. Hull's ship encountered a British squadron, but both were becalmed. Hull sent out small boats with the ship's anchors, dropped the anchors,



Not Actual Size

Congressional medals issued (from top) for Captains Preble, Hull, Bainbridge and Stewart bear depictions of the gallant vessel they commanded—the U.S.S. Constitution.

ANA MUSEUM

and pulled the ship forward. The process was repeated until the ship caught a light breeze and escaped.

By the time Hull took command of the *Constitution*, the American frigate carried 55 guns. On August 19, 1812, Hull engaged the 38-gun British frigate *Guerrière* under Captain James Dacres. During the battle, 750 miles east of Boston, the American crew noticed British cannon shot bouncing off the 2½-inch oak hull and gave the ship its nickname, "Old Ironsides."

The British vessel did not fare as well; its masts were shattered, the rigging fell away and the gun deck listed into the ocean. Too badly damaged to be taken as a prize, the *Guerrière* was burned at sea. Seven American sailors died and another seven were wounded, while the British

claimed 23 dead and 56 injured.

The land campaign of the War of 1812 went badly for America when Hull's uncle and adoptive father, General William Hull (1753-1825), surrendered Detroit without contest on August 16, 1812. A court-martial found General Hull guilty of cowardice and neglect of duty. His life was spared, however, because of his honorable service during the Revolution, but he was dropped from the Army roll in disgrace. Three days later, his nephew Isaac won the naval victory that earned him a Congressional gold medal by resolution of January 29, 1813.

Isaac Hull was born in Derby, Connecticut, on March 9, 1773. He served as a first lieutenant on the *Constitution* in 1800 and served on the *Argus* during the Tripolitan cam-

paign. After his 1812 victory, he voluntarily relinquished command of the *Constitution* to Bainbridge. Hull died in Philadelphia on February 13, 1843.

With Captain Bainbridge in command on December 29, 1812, the *Constitution* met Britain's 38-gun frigate *Java*, under Captain Lambert, off the coast of Brazil. A musket ball struck Bainbridge in the hip, and Lambert died in the engagement. Twelve Americans were killed and 22 wounded, while 48 British died and 102 were wounded. The *Java* was heavily damaged and burned at sea. Bainbridge was awarded a gold medal by Congressional resolution of March 3, 1813.

Bainbridge was born in Princeton, New Jersey, on May 7, 1774. His report on mistreatment while a prisoner of the French led to the passage

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of the "Retaliation Act" of 1798. He died of pneumonia in Philadelphia on July 27, 1833.

A little more than two years after Bainbridge's exploits, Captain Charles Stewart was in command of the *Constitution* when she came upon two British ships, the *Cyane* and the *Levant*, 200 miles northeast of the Madeira Islands on February 20, 1815. Stewart captured the 34-gun corvette *Cyane* and hours later chased down and captured the 21-gun sloop-of-war *Levant*. Congress authorized a gold medal for Stewart by resolution of February 22, 1816.

Stewart was born in Philadelphia on July 28, 1778. He was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1798 and rose to captain in 1806. After winning the gold medal, he remained in the service until 1856, becoming

known as "Old Ironsides." Stewart died in Bordertown, Pennsylvania, on November 6, 1869.

By the 1830s, the image of "Old Ironsides" and Pinckney's statement—"Millions for Defense"—took on political connotations when they appeared on Hard Times tokens. Those political themes supported Daniel Webster, called the "Defender of the Constitution," as the *Constitution* was portrayed as a visual pun. One type of Hard Times token featured the *Constitution* on one side with the legend "Webster Credit Currency." The other side of the token featured a wrecked ship and the legend "Van Buren Metallic Currency."

Prior to these political activities, naval inspectors in 1828 recommended that the *Constitution* be dis-

mantled. However, the 1830 poem "Old Ironsides" by Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-94) raised public sentiment to save the ship from destruction. The final verse reads:

Oh, better that her shattered hulk,
Should sink beneath the wave;
Her thunders shook the mighty deep,
And there should be her grave;
Nail to the mast her holy flag,
Set every threadbare sail;
And give her to the god of storms,
The lightning and the gale!

The ship survived, although her parts require periodic replacement. She was rebuilt in 1833 and about every 50 years since then. On July 21, 1997, after a 3½-year restoration that cost \$12 million, Old Ironsides sailed under her own power for the first time in 116 years. •

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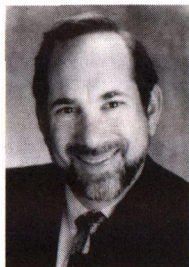
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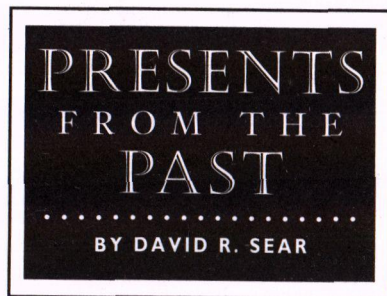
The Master Engravers of 5th-Century Sicily

COINAGE ON THE island of Sicily commenced about 530 B.C., less than a century after the invention of coined money in western Asia Minor. The first mints included Zankle and Naxos on the east coast, Himera in the north, and Selinus and Acragas on the southern shores. These coinages differed markedly from each other and from the contemporary issues of the Greek colonies in southern Italy. The mainland mints uniformly adopted the curious incuse fabric for their silver staters and fractions by which the obverse type was "mirrored" on the reverse.

At this early stage, no one could have foreseen the dramatic political and artistic developments that were to result in Sicily becoming, if only briefly, the foremost region for the creation of numismatic masterpieces. In the latter part of the 5th century B.C., during the Syracusan supremacy, Sicilian coinage reached heights of aesthetic brilliance unsurpassed by any other series in ancient Greek numismatics or, indeed, by anything produced in the 24 subsequent centuries. The crowning glory of this remarkable phenomenon was the exquisite work of great artists, such as Euainetos, Eucleidas and Cimon, whose work influenced not only their contemporaries, but also die engravers of later generations.

In 485 B.C., Gelon, son of Deinomenes and tyrant of the important Sicilian city of Gela, captured Syracuse and transferred his seat of government there. From this episode dates the Syracusan supremacy in eastern Sicily, and the great Corinthian colony on the east coast was to

remain the foremost Greek state on the island until its capture by the Romans in 212 B.C.



A masterpiece of numismatic art belonging to the early years of Syracusan greatness is the celebrated "Demareteion" decadrachm, named after Gelon's wife Demarete, with victorious charioteer and lion on the obverse and head of Artemis-Arethusa wreathed with olive on the reverse. Associated tetradrachms of Syracuse are known, together with a coin of this denomination from the mint of Leontini with reverse type head of Apollo. All these appear to come from the hand of the same die engraver. Traditionally, these issues

have been associated with Gelon's victory over the Carthaginian invaders of Sicily at the battle of Himera in 480 B.C. However, more recent scholarship has demonstrated that the date of these coins is almost certainly a decade later, circa 470 B.C., during the tyranny of Gelon's brother and successor, Hieron.

Unfortunately, the name of the artist who engraved these magnificent dies in the late archaic style is unknown to us. The practice of signing dies began about a half century later, when exciting developments were taking place in the artistic treatment of the basic charioteer/female head design. Down to about 425 B.C., the quadriga was depicted in profile with little indication of motion, as though the race had already taken place and the winner was merely taking his victory lap around the course. But over the following decades, an artistic revolution took place, resulting in a much more realistic and exhilarating representation that depicted the chariot race itself.

The initial step in this transforma-



Not Actual Size

The obverse of this Syracusan silver tetradrachm (circa 410 B.C.) is signed by the engraver Euainetos on the tablet carried by Nike. The signature of Eumenes is found on the reverse, below the head.

Not Actual Size

The signature of Eumenes appears in tiny letters below the head on the reverse of a Syracusan silver tetradrachm of circa 420 B.C. (left). His mark EV is found on the reverse of another Syracusan silver tetradrachm, circa 420-415 B.C. (right).



tion showed the horses at the gallop. Next came a more three-dimensional look achieved by rendering the chariot in a three-quarter, facing view. Finally came the elaboration of exciting details, such as the loss of a rein, a separate wheel in the exergue (suggesting an opponent's mishap) and varying positions of the horses' heads (indicating the fury of the contest).

These beautiful, new designs had an immediate impact, and the responsible die engravers quickly achieved fame, as attested by the unprecedented appearance of their names on the dies. These frequently are well concealed on Arethusa's headband, on one of the surrounding dolphins, or in minute letters along the exergual line. Sometimes, however, the artist's name is proudly proclaimed on a tablet borne aloft by the flying Nike or appears in the field beneath Arethusa's head, rivaling the prominence of the city name itself.

The fame of men such as Eumenes, Eucleidas, Phrygillos, Parmenides, Heracleidas of Catana, and Exacestidas of Camarina has come down to us in this way. But of all the great artists of this remarkable period, two stand out as the dominant figures in this movement—Cimon and Euainetos. Cimon's masterpiece was undoubtedly the exquisite, three-quarter, facing head of Arethusa en-

graved circa 410 B.C., a design that served as the inspiration for many later copies and which has been described as "the finest representation of the facing human head on any coin" (Barclay V. Head in *Historia Numorum*, 1911). About five years later, Cimon also produced the dies for the second issue of decadrachms by the Syracusan mint, more than 60 years after the Demareteion.

Euainetos' career seems to have spanned a somewhat longer period. His early work dates from circa 413 B.C., and he engraved dies for the

cities of Catana and Camarina as well as Syracuse. His most famous coins, however, are the magnificent decadrachms of Syracuse struck in the early years of the 4th century B.C. during the reign of the tyrant Dionysius I. Probably the most celebrated and admired coins of antiquity, the Euainetos decadrachms were struck to pay mercenary soldiers enlisted by Dionysius to fight the Carthaginian invaders of Sicily who brought destruction to so many of the Greek communities at this time. Twenty-one signed reverse dies have been recorded for this issue, while a further 23 are without signature and may represent the work of the master engraver's pupils.

Even the enemies of the Greeks admired Euainetos' work, for many of the "Siculo-Punic" coins issued by the Carthaginians in Sicily during the 4th century B.C. bear heads copied from his famous Arethusa. There could be no greater compliment to the achievements of the most famous of Sicily's master engravers. •



Not Actual Size

A Syracusan silver decadrachm of circa 405 B.C. (top) is signed by master engraver Cimon on the exergual line of the obverse and on Arethusa's ampyx, or metal headband, on the reverse. Another Syracusan silver decadrachm, circa 395 B.C. (bottom), is signed on the reverse by Euainetos below the head of Arethusa.

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Tread Not on Our Heroes!

WE, OF THE American West, take umbrage when our heroes are maligned. Mostly transplants not too far removed from our origins, we are proud of our adoptive idols, pioneers who made regional history by their actions. Few numismatists calling Colorado "home" have not fantasized about finding a Denver-minted Clark, Gruber & Company gold piece to give prominence to their collections.

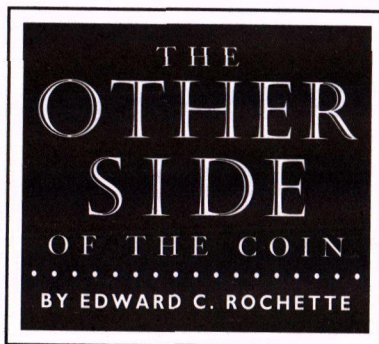
Being guilty of such fantasy, I was chagrined to find our heroes, the eminent Emanuel Henry Gruber and Austin M. Clark, listed in a compendium of common criminals. The well-respected pair are listed as "U.S. counterfeiters" in the three-volume *Encyclopedia of World Crime* (1990), edited by Jay Robert Nash and published by Crime Books, Inc., of Wilmette, Illinois, a reference I sometimes turned to for "Rogues and Rascals" research.

The author did them an injustice. Clark and Gruber should have been listed as "visionaries." Nash describes their product as money made to look "similar to U.S. mint coins, but with the words 'Pike's Peak' replacing 'Liberty' on the *Statue of Liberty* side, and the company name in place of 'United States of America.'"

The "Statue of Liberty side"! Granted, Clark, Gruber & Company were visionaries in seeing the need for circulating coin in the then-wilds of the Rockies. But, neither Austin Clark nor his brother, Milton, or partner Emanuel Gruber saw a quarter century into the future to October 28, 1886, when *Liberté Eclairant le Monde* was unveiled on Bedloe's

Island in New York Harbor.

There was, however, some cause for the author to list Clark and



Gruber as counterfeiters. While the country was busily engaged in fighting the War Between the States, and little time or concern could be spent on the wilderness of the West, a Congressional Ways and Means Committee did, indeed, investigate the firm in 1862. The committee's report concluded that while the men had violated no existing ordinances, their work "provided an opportunity for fraud and villainy."

Nary a local businessman, miner or prospector would agree with the government's report. To ensure circulation, the Clark, Gruber private issue contained 1-percent more gold than its companion United States Mint product. Because of the extra weight, banks in the East paid a premium over face for Clark, Gruber gold coins.

During the early years of the Gold Rush, eastern banks sought to purchase gold from the Rockies. Some banks established buying offices in Colorado, others purchased from local entrepreneurial gold buyers. The manifest problem was the cost of

shipping the gold back East. The number of those who tried to pan their gold from passing stage coaches almost equaled that of those who prospected and worked for it. High losses were offset by the high costs of shipping—5 to 6 percent of the total value.

Clark, Gruber & Company was one of the first to find an interim answer to the problem: refine the gold and coin the metal near its source. Although their mint earned them a comfortable profit, and their attorneys could find no legal obstacle to coining, the two Clarks and Emanuel Gruber were strong advocates for the establishment of a United States branch mint in Denver.



Not Actual Size

Clark, Gruber & Company's private gold issues were not counterfeits, as alleged in a book on world crime.

Encouraged by talks with Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, the partners entered into negotiations with the government to sell their minting facilities. Chase recommended to Congress that it establish a branch mint in Denver, pass legislation to prohibit the coinage of gold and silver by private enterprise, and purchase the property of Clark, Gruber & Company.

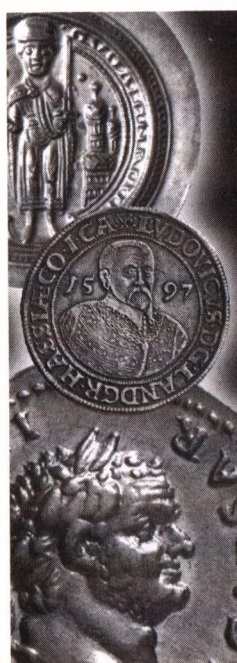
Unfortunately, the horse traveled faster than the cart. Congress acted swiftly on the recommendation to prohibit private minting. A bill was passed that effectively stopped the presses in April 1862 at private mints in Colorado. Not unlike today, Congress failed to appropriate the money to pay Clark, Gruber & Company for its property until April 1863, a full year later.

To the chagrin of Coloradans, the Denver minting facilities became a mint in name only. Sparsely populated, the territory of Colorado commanded little political influence in Washington. Instead, a branch mint was established in Carson City, Nevada. The Denver facilities, meanwhile, were relegated to the status of assay office and depository.

Poetic justice ultimately prevailed. As the supply of precious metals declined in Nevada, the political strength of the Rockies grew. Soon Nevada became the "outback" of the West, and its mint was reduced to an assay office in 1899. In 1904 the Treasury transferred its operations from the old Clark, Gruber facility at 16th and Market streets to a sparkling new facility a few blocks away. Over its Colfax Street

entrance were carved the words UNITED STATES MINT. Colorado gained what Nevada lost.

Even though Denver stands vindicated, it is time to purge the entire record. Austin Clark, his brother, Milton, and Emanuel Gruber never were convicted of counterfeiting. They remain, in fact, our heroes. They were the visionaries who foresaw the need for hard money and worked for the establishment of a mint in Denver. Admittedly they designed their coins to resemble those of the United States, but the designs were well-marked and never intended to defraud. The trio does not deserve to be included in a history of common counterfeiters any more than they should be credited for changing the design on the "Statue of Liberty" side of United States coins! •



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THE ADOPTIVE EMPERORS: COINAGE OF ROME'S ZENITH

The English historian Edward Gibbon termed the second century A.D. the "happiest age in history." Between 96 and 180 A.D., the Roman Empire was ruled by a series of capable emperors. After the assassination in A.D. 96 of Domitian, the last of the Flavian emperors, the Senate chose one of their own members, the elderly Nerva, to succeed to the throne. To secure the support of the army, the new emperor adopted the general Trajan as his son and heir in A.D. 97. This adoption set a precedent, for the next four emperors—Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius—would come to the throne as the adoptive son of their predecessor. Under these "adoptive emperors," the Roman Empire would reach the zenith of its power and prosperity.

In A.D. 98, Trajan became emperor upon the death of Nerva. Under Trajan, the Roman Empire underwent its last significant territorial expansion. After two campaigns (A.D. 101-102 and 105-106), Trajan annexed the Kingdom of the Dacians (modern Romania). In A.D. 105, the Kingdom of the Nabataeans was converted into the Roman province of Arabia Petraea. In A.D. 114, a dispute with Parthia led Trajan to annex Armenia and invade Mesopotamia. In A.D. 116, Mesopotamia was declared a Roman Province. However, rebellions in the East, including those of the Jews, forced Trajan to retreat. He died in A.D. 117 before he could resume campaigning in the East. Before his death, Trajan named his adopted son Hadrian as his heir.

The reign of Hadrian was one of consolidation. The new emperor gave up Trajan's eastern conquests—Armenia regained its former status as a Roman vassal state. Other frontiers were strengthened. In Britain, the wall he built to defend against the Scottish tribes is still to be seen. Hadrian spent most of his reign outside of Italy, touring the provinces to see first-hand what were each territory's needs. In A.D. 136, Hadrian adopted a certain L. Ceionius Commodus, who took the name Aelius Caesar, as his son and heir. However, the death of Aelius in A.D. 138 compelled Hadrian to designate a new heir, Antoninus. In turn, Hadrian compelled Antoninus to adopt Lucius Verus, the son of Aelius, and a nephew of Antoninus, Marcus Annianus Verus, renamed Marcus Aurelius. Hadrian died later that same year.

The reign of Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138-161) was notable chiefly for its tranquility, although in Britain a new defensive line north of Hadrian's Wall was built to keep the Scottish tribes further at bay. Also notable was the long apprenticeship of Marcus Aurelius, who was named Caesar in A.D. 139. By the time of the death of Antoninus in A.D. 161, Marcus was thoroughly prepared to assume the burdens of office. As it turned out, they would prove to be considerable.

Upon his accession, Marcus Aurelius elevated his adoptive brother, Lucius Verus, to the position of co-emperor. Marcus, however, was clearly the supreme authority. Marcus was to spend much of his reign on campaign. Invasions of German tribes from the north and of Parthians from the east bedeviled the empire. Plague, brought back from the east by the army in A.D. 166, swept the empire (a second wave of plague carried Lucius Verus away in A.D. 169). Despite these shocks, Marcus was able to restore order on the eastern frontier and was poised to annex territories on the northern frontier at the time of his death A.D. 180. Marcus was succeeded by his son Commodus, thus breaking the pattern of succession through adoption. Commodus proved to be a despot. With his accession, Rome's greatest age came to an end. The assassination of Commodus at the end of the year A.D. 192 ushered in four years of civil war.

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Beware of False Profits

I RECENTLY READ an ad that says a certain company pays the highest prices for coins. It also says this firm's selling prices are lower than anyone else's. It made me wonder about its profit margin. I don't believe in Santa any more, and am usually skeptical when someone tells me he or she is in business to make me happy, not to make a profit.

Most ads use a certain amount of puffery in their claims. This is not really wrong, as long as we accept it for what it is and don't take it too seriously. Saying that something is the biggest or the best probably doesn't convince many people. It usually makes me consider the rest of the ad even more carefully.

When it comes to buying and selling numismatic items, there are no hard and fast rules about the profit that should be made on a transaction; that is pretty much between the buyer and seller. I have heard of deals in which someone purchases an item for next to nothing and later sells it for thousands. On the other hand, when selling bullion, dealers work on very short margins.

As a general rule, established dealers try to make a profit of 20 to 30 percent, depending on how quickly they are able to turn over the item. Fast-selling or high-value coins usually call for a shorter profit margin, sometimes as little as 5 percent.

If making a profit on the coins you buy is important, pay close attention to the profit someone else makes when selling them to you. If you pay top dollar, you may not see a gain for many years. Don't be blinded by statements and charts indicating that coin values are going up each year.

These illustrations always show retail prices. You need to see how wholesale prices are doing.



Charts, books and trends listings are, at best, only a guide to values. None can tell exactly what any item will bring when bought or sold.

If buying coins at auction, you should be aware that the price you pay includes the cost of doing business. What you bid at auction may not be the price you actually pay for the lot. Most auctioneers charge a 10-percent buyer's fee as well as a 10-percent seller's fee. Somewhere in the price is a 20-percent difference between the buy and sell value of the coin. It's an important consideration if you are buying something in hopes of making a quick profit upon resale.

File #521

According to this ad, United States government gold coins are being offered for sale to the public. This is true, but what the ad does not say is that this is just another mundane offering from another company with a name that sounds like a fancy government agency. The coins are regular gold Liberty and Indian \$2½, \$5, \$10 and \$20. The prices are about two to three times what one would expect to pay in the numismatic

market for Extremely Fine coins. These, unfortunately, are only in Fine condition.

The ad makes the offer sound like a special opportunity for collectors to get into a government hoard of old, gold coins. It has the usual admonition that the coins will not be available for long. You must order immediately if you want to pass some on as treasured family heirlooms. Because of anticipated demand, there is a limit of six of each type. The ad also says—in small print—that this company is not affiliated with the Mint or any government agency.

File #522

I have seen a couple of ads lately offering uncut sheets of U.S. dollar bills for sale. These are great novelty items, and when framed, they make a striking wall decoration. Most non-collectors have never seen the like and are really impressed by them. Years ago, when it was nearly impossible to buy uncut sheets of currency, these items were highly valued by collectors. In more recent times, the government has produced and sold special uncut sheets of \$1 and \$2 notes for collectors, selling them for somewhat more than face value.

The unique nature of these sheets also makes them appealing to consumers who buy from TV and newspaper ads. They have been offered in many forms at various prices, but usually for about double the price charged by the government. If you are interested in obtaining some of these notes, I would suggest going directly to the source. These are

available in full sheets (32 notes), half sheets (16 notes) or samples of four notes. The government recently raised the prices on these items, but they still are a bargain and an interesting addition to any collection.

Mail-order prices are as follows: 4-subject sheets of dollar bills are \$15, while sheets of \$2 bills are \$19; 16-subject sheets of \$1 and \$2 bills are \$32 and \$49, respectively; and 32-subject \$1 and \$2 bill sheets are \$52 and \$89. Send orders or inquiries to Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Order Processing Center, P.O. Box 371594, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7594.

File #523

"300% Per Year!" screams a headline on a post card that shows a picture of a \$20 gold coin and says you can get a special, free report on gold.

The text continues: "When you control a strategic corner of a market, and you are the only source of supply, that is true wealth."

No, folks, I do not make this stuff up. This advertiser really wants us to believe that it is possible to get a 300-percent return from investing in gold coins. The ad did not exactly say that, but it was implied (unless they meant *they* were controlling the market and making that much profit from being the sole source of supply for their customers). Whatever the answer, I want no part of this promotion.

This opportunity is strictly limited to qualified investors who send in their home phone number, so I would not be eligible. Too bad. I'd like to see their free book telling me how to make those enormous profits.

File #524

I got a kick out of seeing some recent ads offering two-headed Kennedy half dollars for sale at \$12.96 apiece. They are properly described as two genuine pieces cleverly joined together to look like a two-headed coin. There is nothing illegal about this, as long as the pieces are not misrepresented in any way. In one ad, there is even a caveat that explains these coins cannot be used as legal tender.

They are quite unusual, even though they are rather expensive. I have seen them before in dealers' stock, where they are sold as novelties. The price usually is a bit lower, but they are not always readily available. One of them would probably make a great pocket piece or conversation starter. •



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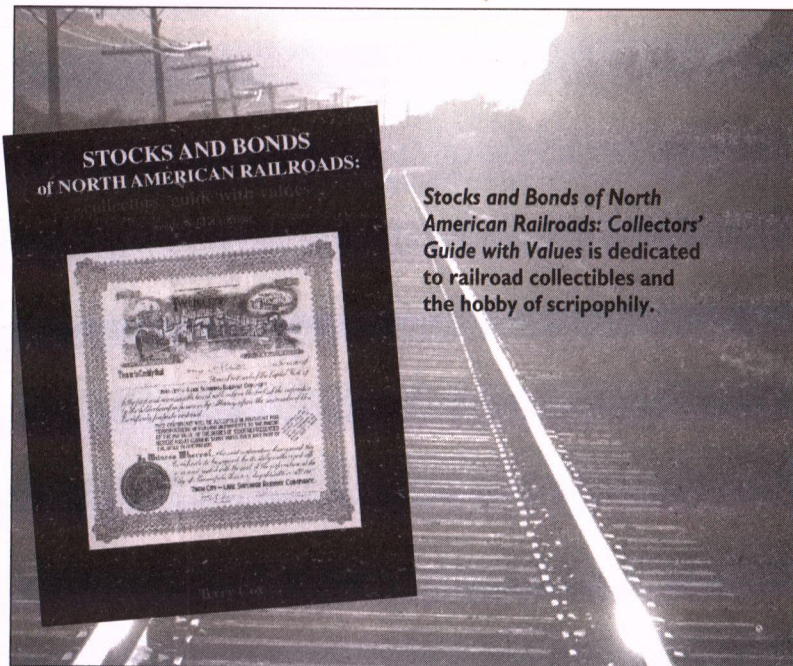
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■ **American Coin Treasures and Hoards** (ANA Library Cat. No. CC55.B6) by Q. David Bowers with Michael Hodder is a collection of "stories from sunken ships, buried chests and boxes, old safes, pirates and privateers, Mint and Treasury storage, caves and crevices." The authors chronicle both famous and obscure hoards and treasures of coins, paper money or numismatic items relating to the United States or its antecedent colonies.

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Tale of the Midnight Minter

continued from page 1009

answer was: "It is very strange, sir, then, that he has brought me a certificate of his honesty on your own handwriting, signed by yourself and Mr. Eckfeldt." I drew the certificate from my pocket and showed it to him. He then said: "this was given to him before he was discharged," to which I replied: "it is dated, the books of the Mint will show the time of his discharge, and I will refer to them." I made the reference, and found that the certificate bore date about a month after the young man had been discharged, which confirmed what his father had said to me, and refuted the calumny of Mr. Peale, whom I then invited to look at the book with me and compare the dates for himself. He declined to do so, remarking that he did not care about the matter, and that "the truth was, there never had been a boy in the Mint who did not steal."

The young man was of course employed, as an act of justice; and shortly afterwards Mr. Peale placed him upon the night watch, a duty of trust and extra compensation. If he had believed what he told me, he could not justifiably have done this. Therefore, I formed of him an opinion which I have not since had reason to alter.

Several observations come to mind. McCulloh did not name the father, uncle or watchman. The reference to a father and uncle must be an error, since George and John Jacob Eckfeldt were not brothers (that error is understandable and of no consequence).

Most later writers have made the mistake of setting this story in 1857-58, after Theodore turned 21. However, McCulloh's story was published in July 1853, when John was 22 and married to Sally. Theo-

dore had just turned 16, and Frederick was 14. Furthermore, in the 1860 census, Theodore is enumerated as a clerk living with his father and sisters, indicating that he was unmarried. These observations lead me to conclude that the story may have referred to John, not to Theodore or Frederick.

The 1804 Dollar Restrikes

NUMISMATIST RICHARD SNOW searched Mint payroll records residing in the National Archives, but did not find Theodore listed as an employee in 1857 or 1858. He did find Frederick Eckfeldt, beginning in 1856, and concluded that Frederick was the Midnight Minter. Snow presented this conclusion as fact in his book *Flying Eagle & Indian Cents*.

If Theodore was not a Mint employee, he could not have been the Midnight Minter. There is no evidence that Frederick was a night watchman, had unrestricted access to Mint equipment, or had the skills and training required to run the machinery. Therefore, Frederick likely was not the Midnight Minter.

Selling 1804 Dollars

THE FIRST CLUE came from dealer S.K. Harzfeld's 1880 interview with Mint Superintendent A. Loudon Snowden, who talked about the administration of his uncle, James Ross Snowden (1853-61).

About this period an old employee of the Mint, a relative of one of the first and most valuable officers of the Mint, who had charge of the dies in the Engraver's Department, was discovered by the sales made by an erring son, to have taken impressions from 1804, and some other dies.

In the June 1882 issue of *Mason's Coin Collector's Magazine*, Ebenezer

Locke Mason described how he got his 1804 dollar while operating a store at North Second Street near Buttonwood Street. "Here was offered by young Eckfeldt three genuine U.S. 1804 dollars at \$70 each and nearly all the rare 1/2 cents in dozens of duplicates were purchased."

Newman and Bressett concluded that the dollars were struck by George Eckfeldt and that Theodore was the "erring son," since George's other son, John, was in San Francisco at the time.

In a 1908 letter, Charles Steigerwalt stated that George's son Cater stole the 1804 dollars from his father and sold them. Cater does not appear on the list of known family members. Although it still is speculation—since there were a number of young Eckfeldts—Theodore remains the most likely suspect for striking the pieces.

Other Suspects

OTHER REPORTS INDICATE that Adam Eckfeldt restruck coins for inclusion in the Mint Cabinet, and that Mint Director James Ross Snowden had rare pieces struck to trade for items missing from the cabinet. Snowden once asked permission from the Secretary of the Treasury to restrike rarities and sell them at a profit to collectors. Enough rare pieces got out of the Mint over a sufficient period to suspect the involvement of several insiders.

When asked specifically about the 1804 dollars, Mint officials responded with ignorance or deception. They authenticated pieces as being struck in 1804 when they either knew or should have known they were not made until 30 years later. They said little or nothing official about the 1804 dollar restrikes.

The best current theory is that

George Eckfeldt struck the "plain edge" 1804 dollars with the possible approval of higher Mint officials. No night watchman was involved, and there was no Midnight Minter. •

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Pete Smith works for an international law firm based in Minneapolis. He has conducted biographical research since 1990, while writing AMERICAN NUMISMATIC BIOGRAPHIES, published in 1992. His column "Names in Numismatics," has appeared in THE NUMISMATIST since May 1993.

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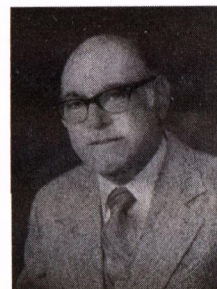
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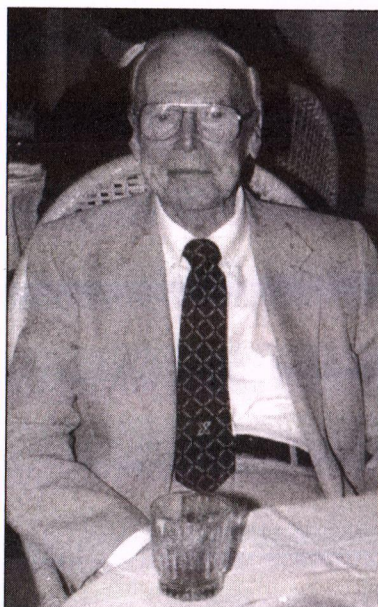
ANA Mourns Loss of General Counsel George D. Hatie

George D. Hatie, ANA general counsel for 20 years, died on June 26 in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Life Member 310, he was 87 years old.

"George Hatie was a gentleman and a friend to all those who met him, giving so much to the ANA without thought to personal gain," said Executive Director Robert J. Leuver. "He was a remarkable man and a brilliant attorney, whose legal counsel was terse, cogent and conservative. George will be missed." The ANA's 106th Anniversary Convention in New York was dedicated to his memory.

Born in Detroit on March 11, 1910, Hatie graduated from the University of Detroit Law School in 1933, where he led his class and was editor-in-chief of the law review. He joined the law firm of Cross, Wrock in 1936 and was made a partner in 1945; he remained with the prestigious firm for 61 years.

He served on the ANA Board of Governors (1967-71), and as vice president (1973-75 and 1977-79), and president (1979-81). He was legal counsel to the ANA from 1963 to 1967 and 1981 until his death. At the ANA's 105th Anniversary Convention in 1996, Hatie was inducted into the Association's Numismatic Hall of Fame.



George Hatie at the Association's 1993 convention in Orlando, Florida.

His strong leadership and devotion to the hobby earned him the American Numismatic Association's highest honor, the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award for Distinguished Service (1982), as well as its Medal of Merit (1992), Glenn Smedley Memorial Award (1993) and Lifetime Achievement Award (1994).

Hatie also served as president of the Token and Medal Society, Central States Numismatic Society, Michigan State Numismatic Society, Detroit Coin Club, Grosse Pointe Numismatic Society and Lake Erie Exonumist Society. Appointed to the United States Assay Commission in 1975, he was on boards and committees of the Society of Paper Money Collectors, Paper Money Collectors of Michigan and the Penn-Ohio Coin Club.

Outside the hobby, Hatie served

as president of the Michigan Humane Society, and on the boards of the Kidney Foundation of Michigan and the Girl Scouts of Metropolitan Detroit.

New ANA Board Takes Office in New York

A new president and vice president, and two new and five incumbent governors were elected to the ANA's nine-member Board of Governors, with 4,518 ballots cast in the bien-

ANA World Wide Web Site

<http://www.money.org>

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Membership News

nial election. The new Board was sworn into office by United States Treasurer Mary Ellen Withrow at the ANA's 106th Anniversary Convention in New York City.

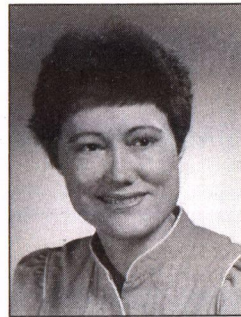
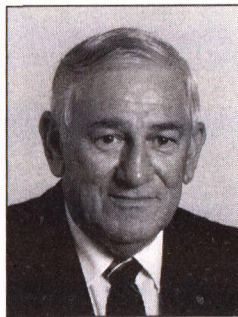
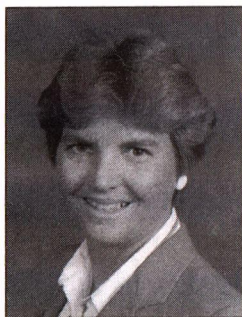
Anthony Swiatek, who ran unopposed, was elected president, receiving the most votes cast for any candidate—3,853. Scott Travers, who defeated Art Kagin, was elected vice president in a very tight race (2,244 to 2,094).

New Board members are Governors H. Robert Campbell (2,805) and Thomas Hallenbeck (3,310). Re-elected to the Board were Helen L. Carmody (3,283), Kay Lenker (2,754), Gary E. Lewis (2,877), Will Rossman (2,637) and John W. Wilson (2,944). Outgoing President Kenneth Bressett and first-term Governor J.T. Stanton did not seek re-election. Unsuccessful in their bid for seats on the Board were Brian E. Fanton (1,916) and William H. Horton Jr. (2,347).

The ANA distributed 27,148 ballots to eligible voting members in the June issue of *The Numismatist* and by first-class mail. Of the 4,518 received by the July 10 deadline, 4,438 were declared valid and 86 invalid. Nearly 17 percent of the ANA membership cast ballots in this election; more than 15 percent voted in the election two years ago.

Trio Presented with ANA Medal of Merit

Each year the ANA awards its Medal of Merit in recognition of numerous years of dedicated, outstanding service to the Association. The 1997 awardees, announced at the 106th Anniversary Convention in New York, are Cindy Grellman of Lake



Recipients of the ANA Medal of Merit for 1997 are (from left) Cindy Grellman of Lake Mary, Florida; Stephen R. Taylor of Dover, Delaware; and Nancy J. Wilson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mary, Florida; Stephen R. Taylor of Dover, Delaware; and Nancy J. Wilson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Cindy Grellman has served as an ANA exhibit judge for a number of years and as exhibit chairman for the Association's 1992 convention in Orlando. She received the Glenn Smedley Memorial Award in 1996. An expert in the field of tokens and medals, she is a key member of the Civil War Token Society and the Token and Medal Society, as well as Florida United Numismatists.

A recipient of the Glenn Smedley Memorial Award, Stephen Taylor served a total of eight years on the ANA Board of Governors, including two years as president. He has encouraged collecting as a hobby for young people as well as senior citizens. A paper money collector and award-winning exhibitor who won ANA best-of-show honors in 1978, Taylor is past president of the Society of Paper Money Collectors, Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association and Delaware's Kent Coin Club.

A four-term member of the ANA Board, Nancy Wilson was assistant general chairman of the ANA's 1986 convention in Milwaukee and is a

Glenn Smedley Award recipient. An ardent supporter of exhibitors and exhibiting, she is a certified ANA exhibit judge. She is an active member of more than a dozen clubs, including the Central States Numismatic Society, Numismatists of Wisconsin and Milwaukee Numismatic Society.

Sundman Recognized for Exemplary Service

The ANA Exemplary Service Award is presented for services "above and beyond the call" on behalf of the ANA. This year's recipient is David Sundman of Littleton, New Hampshire, who was honored at the New York City convention.

Since 1987, Sundman has been president of Littleton Coin Company, a family-owned business established in 1945. The firm employs a staff of 135 and reaches more than 100,000 collectors across the country by mail, many of whom have been recruited as ANA members. A regular student at the ANA's annual Summer Conference, he has volunteered his time as a Numismatic Theatre speaker at ANA conventions. In the interest of edu-

Membership News

cating his employees about numismatics, he arranged for the ANA to conduct a grading seminar on Littleton's premises.

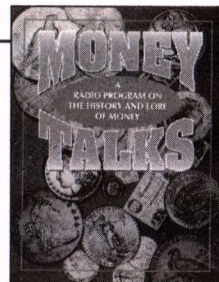
Applications Accepted for Catastrophe Major Medical Insurance

An open enrollment period, effective through October 1, 1997, has been announced for the ANA's \$1 million Catastrophe Major Medical Insurance Plan. During this period, all members and their spouses, regardless of age, are eligible to apply. Also eligible are unmarried, dependent children under 21 years of age (27 years if a full-time student), parents and parents-in-law.

The insurance plan is designed to protect against the high costs of medical care. Benefits start when all other coverage is depleted—which can happen quickly in the event of catastrophic illness or accident.

The plan includes a \$25,000 deductible or the amount paid by basic health insurance, whichever is higher. Basic health plans cover most if not all of the deductible; once this deductible is met, the catastrophe plan pays up to \$1 million in expenses for up to three, full years. This coverage includes home health care and nursing home benefits.

Direct any questions concerning this offer to the ANA's group insurance administrator: Albert H. Wohlers & Co., 1440 N. Northwest



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Patrons and Sponsors Sought for ANA Shows

To help offset the cost of special events at the National Money Show in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 19-21, 1998, individuals, clubs and other organizations are asked to pledge their monetary support as convention patrons. Five categories of tax-deductible support have been established: Platinum (\$500+), Gold (\$250+), Silver (\$100+), Nickel (\$50+) and Copper (\$25). Patrons contributing \$100 or more will be recognized on a sign at the entrance of the bourse floor. In addition, the

name, city and state of all patrons will be listed in the official Cincinnati convention program.

Send checks, made payable to "ANA National Money Show," to the ANA Convention Department. Mastercard, VISA or American Express credit card payments can be made by mail or by fax, 719/634-4085. Please include credit card account number, expiration date and cardholder's signature.

The American Numismatic Association also invites individuals, clubs and corporate entities to become "Official Convention Sponsors" of the 1998 National Money Show and the 107th Anniversary Convention in Portland. To inquire about sponsorship opportunities, contact the Development Office.

Castle Earns Government Service Award

At the Awards and Installation Banquet in New York City on August 2, the ANA presented its Outstanding Government Service Award to U.S. Representative Michael N. Castle of Delaware. Castle is chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, which has jurisdiction over the Federal Reserve's setting of interest rates, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and domestic currency and coinage issues.

Fifteen Individuals Honored with Presidential Award

Before leaving office, ANA President Kenneth E. Bressett announced 15 new recipients of the Presidential Award for exemplary contributions to the hobby. Honored on June 27 at a meeting of California's Vallejo Numismatic Society was Michael M. Stanley of Concord, California. Abigail Kraljevich of Malvern, Pennsylvania, received her award on July 12 at the ANA's 29th Annual Summer Conference in Colorado Springs.

At the Association's 106th Anniversary Convention in New York City last month, the following Presidential Award recipients were recognized: Harry W. Bass Jr. of Dallas, Texas; Q. David Bowers of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire; Roy Brown of Anchorage, Alaska; Gene and Patricia Hynds of Hollywood, Florida; Lee and Joyce Kuntz of Claremont, California; Eric Newman of St. Louis, Missouri; Greg Ruby of Hampstead, Maryland; Margo Russell of Sidney, Ohio; Arlie Slabaugh of Springfield,

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Listed below are contributions for June 1997.

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Membership News

Pennsylvania; Louis Villalpando of Biloxi, Mississippi; and Moe Weinschel of Rockaway Park, New York.

Speakers Needed for Numismatic Theatre

The Numismatic Theatre, a series of 35- to 45-minute educational presentations conducted at ANA conventions, is one of the Association's most successful programs. The Education Department has begun scheduling talks for the ANA's National Money Show in Cincinnati, Ohio (March 19-21), and 107th Anniversary Convention in Portland, Oregon (August 5-9). Knowledgeable numismatists are encouraged to submit proposals for these forums as

soon as possible.

Speakers should plan approximately 30 minutes for their talks, followed by 5 to 10 minutes of questions and answers. Particularly invited are presentations of new theories and results of original research. For more information or to submit a proposal for a presentation, contact the Education Department.

Sign Up to Exhibit at Cincinnati Convention

Share your numismatic expertise and enthusiasm by exhibiting at the ANA National Money Show in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 19-21, 1998. By mounting a non-competitive exhibit, you also can introduce non-

collectors to the hobby while sharpening your exhibiting skills. The Rodger E. Hershey Memorial People's Choice Exhibit Award will be presented for the exhibit voted most popular by convention visitors. To request an exhibit application, contact the Convention Department.

Numismatic Art Award Presented to Janssen

Each year the American Numismatic Association confers its Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture—an engraved, 14kt-gold medal provided by the Franklin Mint. The 1997 recipient, Virginia Janssen, burst onto the medallic sculpture scene a little more than

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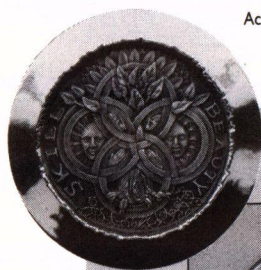
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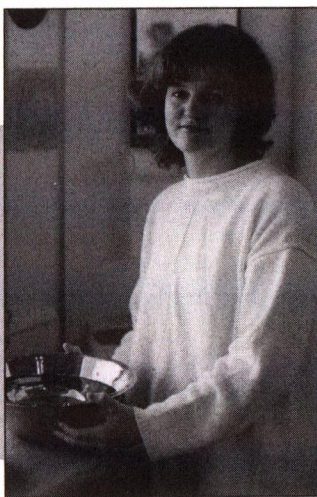
Membership News



Actual Size: 76mm



Actual Size: 80mm



Virginia Janssen, recipient of the ANA's Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallion Sculpture, is shown in her studio. She created these 10- and 5-year service medals (left and center, respectively) for Medalcraft Mint in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Today, Janssen operates her own studio.

10 years ago after completing scholarship studies at the University of Colorado, the Aletti Center for International Studies in Rome and the School of Medallion Art at the Italian Mint.

A prolific exhibitor and medalist, and the instructor of the ANA's one-of-a-kind Summer Conference class, "The Art of Engraving," she was a sculptor/engraver for Medalcraft Mint in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Recently she opened a studio in Green Bay specializing in bas-relief sculpture and architectural decoration. Says Janssen, "My work has always been a record of moments . . . Narrative in nature, it is, for the most part, figurative, with portraiture remaining a singular pleasure."

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calendar listings are published as a service to member clubs of the American Numismatic Association. Entries must be received at least eight weeks prior to the cover date of the magazine and preferably as much as four months in advance so announcements can appear in several consecutive issues. Type or print information and send to Calendar of Events, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279 or fax 719/634-4085. Receipt of show notices is acknowledged by post card; if you do not receive confirmation of your listing, contact the Publications Department.

EAST

SEPTEMBER

7 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capitol District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180, telephone 518/274-4216.

14 BREWSTER, NY. Sciortino's Restaurant, Rt. 22. Cross States Numismatic Association Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Ralph Langham, c/o CSNA, Box 8308, New Fairfield, CT 06812, telephone 914/279-5324.

20-21 INDIANA, PA. Best Western University Inn, 1545 Wayne Ave., Rt. 119 S. 39th Annual Fall Coin show sponsored by the Indiana Coin Club. John F. Busovicki, 72 Walcott St., Clymer, PA 15728-1230, telephone 412/254-2471.

20-21 LANCASTER, PA. Farm & Home Center, Arcadia Rd. (off Rt. 72, Manheim Pike). 39th Annual Fall Coin Show conducted by the Red Rose Coin Club. Chairman Kerry Wetterstrom, c/o RRCC, P.O. Box 621, Lancaster, PA 17608, telephone 717/390-9194.

ANA EVENTS

March 19-21, 1998 CINCINNATI, OH. Cincinnati Convention Center, 525 Elm St. ANA National Money Show. Contact Convention Department.

April 19-25, 1998 National Coin Week. Contact Education Department.

July 11-17, 1998 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. The Colorado College. 30th Annual Summer Conference. Contact Education Department.

August 5-9, 1998 PORTLAND, OR. Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ANA 107th Anniversary Convention. Contact Convention Department.

NATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS

September 5-7 HARVEY, IL. Ramada Inn Hotel, 17040 S. Halsted (I-80 & Rt. 1). Central States Numismatic Society Fall Coin Show & Convention hosted by the Illinois Numismatic Association. Bourse Chairman Clayton J. Hagemann, P.O. Box 141, Plano, IL 60545, telephone 630/552-3491.

September 26-28 GREENSBORO, NC. Village Green, 310 W. Meadowview. North Carolina Numismatic Association 39th Annual Convention & Coin Show. Bourse Chairman C.Y. Dellinger Jr., P.O. Box 25156, Charlotte, NC 28229, telephone 704/568-3987.

September 26-28 SALT LAKE CITY, UT. National Guard Armory #2, 1523 Sunnyside Ave. 34th Annual Utah Numismatic Society Coin & Collectible Show. Bob Campbell, 1123 E. 21st S., Salt Lake City, UT 84106, telephone 801/467-4471.

October 16-18 PENNSAUKEN, NJ. South Jersey Expo Center, Rt. 73. Middle Atlantic Numismatic Expo & Coin Show sponsored by the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association/Great Eastern Numismatic Association. William H. Horton Jr., P.O. Box 175, Keyport, NJ 07735, fax 908/566-2068.

October 24-26 LOUISVILLE, KY. Executive Inn, 978 Phillips Ln. Kentucky State Numismatic Association 37th Annual Coin Show, hosted by the Louisville Coin Club. Harry Tileston, P.O. Box 43744, Louisville, KY 40253-0744.

October 24-26 MONROEVILLE, PA. Pittsburgh ExpoMart, Bus. Rt. 22 (Exit 6, Pa. Tpk.). Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) 19th Annual Convention. John Paul Sarosi, 106 Market St., Johnstown, PA 15901, telephone 814/535-5766.

October 31-November 1 INDIANAPOLIS, IN. Indianapolis Convention Center. Indiana State Numismatic Association Show. Bill Stogsdill, P.O. Box 5906, Bloomington, IN 47407-5906, telephone 812/339-1724.

October 31-November 2 GREENVILLE, SC. Holiday Inn, Roper Mountain Rd., off I-385. South Carolina Numismatic Association 25th State Convention & Coin Show. Don McAlister, 2207 W. Parker Rd., Greenville, SC 29611, telephone 864/246-2685.

November 7-9 JACKSONVILLE, AR. Jacksonville Community Center, Municipal Dr. & W. Main St. (15 mi. N. of Little Rock at U.S. Hwy. 67 & 167). Arkansas Numismatic Society 49th Anniversary Coin Show. ANS, c/o Sam Duderar, #1 Donaghey Bldg., Little Rock, AR 72201, telephone 501/375-2113 or 501/985-1663.

November 14-16 IRVING, TX. Howard Johnson Inn/Convention Center, 120

continued on next page

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NATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS

continued from previous page

W. Airport Fwy. (old Hwy. 183, S. side, between Carl & O'Connor Rds.). DFW Metroplex Coin Show sponsored by Numismatics International. Paul Garner, Doug Davis, Box 154906, Waco, TX 76715-4906.

November 22-23 SYRACUSE, NY. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. 70th Annual Empire State Numismatic Association Coin Convention. Bourse Chairman Edmund J. Wlodarski, 8026 Trina Cir. W., Clay, NY 13041-9159, telephone 315/699-3711.

21 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction held by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarsen, c/o Lazer Tree Graphics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104.

21 SYRACUSE, NY. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. Coin Show conducted by the Onondaga Numismatic Association. Edmund J. Wlodarski, 8026 Trina Cir. W., Clay, NY 13041-9159, telephone 315/699-3711.

27 HARRISBURG, PA. Harrisburg River Rescue Headquarters, 1119 S. Cameron St. Coin Show held by the Harrisburg Coin Club. HCC, P.O. Box 126253, Harrisburg, PA 17112-6253.

28 SPARTA, NJ. Elks Lodge on the Lake Mohawk Boardwalk. Sussex County Coin Club Coin Show. SCCC, c/o Tom Stepanski, Dart Stamp & Coin Shop, P.O. Box 6273, Middletown, NY 10940, telephone 914/343-2716.

OCTOBER

5 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capitol District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180, telephone 518/274-4216.

12 HACKETTSTOWN, NJ. American Legion Hall, Willow Grove St. Coin Show sponsored by the Hackettstown Coin Club. HCC Show Chairman, c/o

Steve's Coins, P.O. Box 83, Boonton, NJ 07005.

18-19 CHARLESTON, WV. Charleston House Holiday Inn, 600 Kanawha Blvd. E. Charleston Coin Show sponsored by the Charleston Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Don Clifford, P.O. Box 65, St. Albans, WV 25177-0065, telephone 304/727-4062 (after 7 p.m.).

18-19 ROCHESTER, NY. Eisenhart Auditorium (Rochester Science & Museum Center), 657 East Ave. Rochester Numismatic Association Fall Coin Show. John G. Cooper, 4 W. Main St., LeRoy, NY 14482-1358, telephone 716/768-7780.

19 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction held by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarsen, c/o Lazer Tree Graphics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104.

19 SYRACUSE, NY. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. Coin Show conducted by the Onondaga Numismatic Association. Edmund J. Wlodarski, 8026 Trina Cir. W., Clay, NY 13041-9159, telephone 315/699-3711.

26 GLENS FALLS, NY. Queensbury VFW Post 6196, Richardson St. & Luzerne Rd. 19th Fall Coin & Stamp Show held by the Coopers Cave Coin Club. Fred Meinrenken, 2262 Call St., Lake Luzerne, NY 12846-1820, telephone 518/654-9585.

26 WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA. Dante Club, Baldwin St. SemiAnnual Coin Show of the West Springfield Coin Club. Peter Setian, P.O. Box 104, West Springfield, MA 01089.

NOVEMBER

2 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capitol District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180, telephone 518/274-4216.

2 PORTLAND, ME. Holiday Inn-West, Exit 8, Maine Tpk. (Riverside St.). Coin Show sponsored by the Gorham Coin Club. Stephen A. Crain, 89 Varney Mill Rd., Windham, ME 04062, telephone 207/892-7113 (evenings).

8-9 LAVALE, MD. LaVale Fire Hall #1, 423 National Hwy. (U.S. Rt. 40, 3 mi. W. of Cumberland). Western Maryland Coin Club Coin Show. Bourse Chairman George Waingold, 1260 Vocke Rd., LaVale, MD 21502-7716; telephone 301/729-0777.

9 BREWSTER, NY. Sciortino's Restaurant, Rt. 22. Cross States Numismatic Association Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Ralph Langham, c/o CSNA, Box 8308, New Fairfield, CT 06812, telephone 914/279-5324.

16 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction held by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarsen, c/o Lazer Tree Graphics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104.

16 HERMITAGE, PA. Holiday Inn, Rt. 18, St. Rt. 60 & I-80. Greater Hermitage Coin Show sponsored by the Hermitage Numismatic Society. Show Chairman Jim Myhra, c/o HNS, P.O. Box 1237, Hermitage, PA 16148, telephone 412/981-3334 or fax 412/983-0526.

Membership News

16 SYRACUSE, NY. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. Coin Show conducted by the Onondaga Numismatic Association. Edmund J. Wlodarski, 8026 Trina Cir. W., Clay, NY 13041-9159, telephone 315/699-3711.

SOUTH

SEPTEMBER

7 HOLLYWOOD, FL. Hollywood Rotary Club, 2349 Taylor St. (E. of I-95, off Hollywood Blvd., N. on 24th Ave.). Gold Coast Coin Club Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show. GCCC, P.O. Box 910, Hollywood, FL 33022.

20 CAMDEN, SC. American Legion, Hwy. 1 S. Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Camden Coin Club. Bourse Chairmen Bill Blake and Pascal Brock, c/o CCC, 169 Wildwood Ln., Lugoff, SC 29078.

21 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Hwy. (@ Oakland Park Blvd.). Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show. E.O. Smith, c/o FLCC, P.O. Box 22102, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102, telephone 954/791-6198.

27-28 BEAUMONT, TX. Holiday Inn/Beaumont Plaza (Houston Room), 3950 I-10 S. Southeast Texas Coin & Collectibles Fall Show sponsored by the Beaumont, Port Arthur and Silsbee Coin Clubs. Bourse Chairman, P.O. Box 1676, Silsbee, TX 77656, telephone 409/385-9272.

27-28 FT. WALTON BEACH, FL. Westwood Retirement Community, 1001 Mar Walt Dr. Fort Walton Beach Fall Coin Show conducted by the Fort Walton Beach Coin Club. Ed Ramby, 116 Destin Dr., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548, telephone 904/243-9705.

OCTOBER

5 HOLLYWOOD, FL. Hollywood

Rotary Club, 2349 Taylor St. (E. of I-95, off Hollywood Blvd., N. on 24th Ave.). Gold Coast Coin Club Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show. GCCC, P.O. Box 910, Hollywood, FL 33022.

19 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Hwy. (@ Oakland Park Blvd.). Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show. E.O. Smith, c/o FLCC, P.O. Box 22102, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102, telephone 954/791-6198.

NOVEMBER

2 HOLLYWOOD, FL. Hollywood Rotary Club, 2349 Taylor St. (E. of I-95, off Hollywood Blvd., N. on 24th Ave.). Gold Coast Coin Club Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show. GCCC, P.O. Box 910, Hollywood, FL 33022.

8-9 LAWTON, OK. Howard Johnson Hotel. 36th Annual Coin Show conducted by the Comanche County Coin Club. Stan Stambaugh, Box 6555, Lawton, OK 73506, telephone 405/255-3400.

16 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Hwy. (@ Oakland Park Blvd.). Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show. E.O. Smith, c/o FLCC, P.O. Box 22102, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102, telephone 954/791-6198.

CENTRAL

SEPTEMBER

13 PEKIN, IL. Miller Senior Center, 551 S. 14th St. (1/2 block N. of Pekin Memorial Hospital, across from Pekin Park Lagoon). 37th Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Tazewell Numismatic Society. Bourse Chairman Dale O. Friedinger, c/o TNS, P.O. Box 696, Pekin, IL 61555-0696.

13-14 LENEXA, KS. Community Center, Pflumm Rd. @ Santa Fe Trail Dr. (I-35 & 95th St., 2 blocks W. to Pflumm, then 2 blocks N.). 29th Annual Johnson County Numismatic Society Coin, Stamp & Card Show. Mark McWherter, 1107 E. Northview St., Olathe, KS 66061, telephone 913/649-7070 (day) or 913/764-0386 (evening).

19-21 FT. MITCHELL, KY. Drawbridge Inn & Convention Center, I-75, Exit 186. 14th Annual Greater Cincinnati Numismatic Exposition. Chairman Paul Padgett, 716 W. Wyoming Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45215, telephone 513/821-2143.

21 ROCKFORD, IL. Holiday Inn/Hoffman House, 7550 E. State St. 82nd Semi-Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Rockford Area Coin Club. Ralph Winquist, 1004 "C" St., Rockford, IL 61107, telephone 815/963-0396.

OCTOBER

4-5 SIOUX FALLS, SD. Ramkota Inn, I-29, Exit 81. 33rd Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Great Plains Coin Club. Larry Muehl, P.O. Box 1091, Sioux Falls, SD 57101, telephone 605/335-1910.

11-12 DOVER, OH. Masonic Temple, 735 N. Wooster Ave., I-77, Exit 83. Tuscarawas County Coin Club 37th Annual Coin Show. TCCC, Box 83, New Philadelphia, OH 44683.

11-12 SALINA, KS. Kenwood Hall, Kenwood Park (S. of Bicentennial Center). Coin & Stamp Show sponsored by the Salina Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Carl E. Adrian, c/o SCC, P.O. Box 1111, Salina, KS 67402-1111, telephone 913/827-9766 or 913/827-2024.

12 KANKAKEE, IL. Civic Auditorium @ Governor Small Memorial Park, W. Charles St. & S. 8th Ave. Kankakee Coin, Stamp & Sports Card Club Fall Festival of Coins, Stamps & Sport Cards.

Membership News

Michael Doran, c/o KCSSCC, P.O. Box 150, Bradley, IL 60915-0150, telephone 815/937-4409.

19 ROCHESTER, MN. Radisson Plaza Hotel, 150 S. Broadway. Rochester Area Coin & Stamp Show held by the Rochester Coin Club. Jerry Swanson, P.O. Box 565, Rochester, MN 55903, telephone 507/289-5099.

19 XENIA, OH. Greene County Fairgrounds (Dining Hall), W. Ankeney Mill Rd. Greene County Coin Club Semi-Annual Coin Show. John Eckman, 4722 S. Dixie Dr., Dayton, OH 45439, telephone 937/294-0601.

25-26 SPRINGFIELD, MO. University Plaza Trade Center (Lower Level), 625 E. St. Louis St. Coin Show hosted by the Ozarks' Coin Club. Karen Pritchett, c/o OCC, P.O. Box 3913,

Springfield, MO 65808, telephone 417/865-9262 (after 12 p.m.).

26 ELGIN, IL. Elgin VFW Post 1307, 1601 Weld Rd. (between Randall & McLean, S. of U.S. Rt. 20). 35th Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Elgin Coin Club. Chairman Harold Hunt, c/o ECC, P.O. Box 561, South Elgin, IL 60177, telephone 848/934-4724.

26 GREEN BAY, WI. Comfort Suites/Rock Garden, 1951 Bond St. Annual Fall Coin Show of the Nicolet Coin Club. Roger Bohn, 1345 Ponderosa Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313, telephone 414/499-7035.

NOVEMBER

15 PEKIN, IL. Miller Senior Center, 551 S. 14th St. (1/2 block N. of Pekin Memorial Hospital, across from Pekin Park Lagoon). 4th Holiday Coin Show

sponsored by the Tazewell Numismatic Society. Bourse Chairman Dale O. Freidinger, c/o TNS, P.O. Box 696, Pekin, IL 61555-0696.

WEST SEPTEMBER

14 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge (by the Buttes), 6398 E. Oak St. Camelback Collectibles Club Coin, Stamp, Sports Card & Collectibles Show. Show Chairman Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060, telephone 602/990-1007.

28 FAIRFIELD, CA. Fairfield Community Center, 1100 Kentucky (near Pennsylvania). 8th Annual Fairfield Coin & Collectibles Show held by the Fairfield Coin Club. FCC, P.O. Box 944, Fairfield, CA 94533, telephone 707/435-8751.

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Membership News

OCTOBER

12 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge (by the Buttes), 6398 E. Oak St. Camelback Collectibles Club Coin, Stamp, Sports Card & Collectibles Show. Show Chairman Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060, telephone 602/990-1007.

18-19 COEUR D'ALENE, ID. Coeur d'Alene Inn, 414 W. Appleway. Coeur d'Alene Coin Club 36th Semi-Annual Coin, Stamp & Card Show. Robert Mertens, c/o CDACC, P.O. Box 4776, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814, telephone 208/664-1004.

18-19 STOCKTON, CA. Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon St. 33rd Annual Coin Show held by the Delta Coin Club of California. Chairman Ruben Smith, P.O. Box 5787, Stockton, CA 95205, telephone 209/982-5861.

25-26 CARMICHAEL, CA. LaSierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Rd. Sacramento Valley Coin Club 40th Annual Fall Coin-a-rama. David Herr, P.O. Box 160122, Sacramento, CA 95816, telephone 916/885-9050.

NOVEMBER

1-2 TACOMA, WA. Tacoma Elks Lodge, 1965 S. Union. Tacoma-Lake-wood Coin Club Bi-Annual Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Paul Longcrier, P.O. Box 7626, Olympia, WA 98507.

9 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge (by the Buttes), 6398 E. Oak St. Camelback Collectibles Club Coin, Stamp, Sports Card & Collectibles Show. Show Chairman Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060, telephone 602/990-1007.

22-23 SPOKANE, WA. Shilo Inn Hotel, 923 E. 3rd Ave. Inland Empire Coin Club Fall Coin, Card & Stamp Show. Bourse Chairman Michael Teague, c/o IECC, P.O. Box 241, Spokane, WA 99210.

30 CONCORD, CA. VFW Post 5182, 2290 Willow Pass Rd. (@ Colfax). First Annual Contra Costa Coin Show held by the Diablo Numismatic Society. Bourse Chairman Vince Lacariere, telephone 510/792-1511, or Mike Stanley, c/o DNS, P.O. Box 5473, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-1473, telephone 510/825-0649.

GERMANY

SEPTEMBER

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Membership News

Frankfurt-Karlsruhe, Schwetzingen Exit.
Heidelberg Coin & Stamp Club Coin
Show. Harley G. Miller, Im Kreuz 18,
74906 Wollenberg, Germany, telephone
0049 6268 555.

MEXICO

OCTOBER

9-11 GUADALAJARA. Hotel Carlton. International Numismatic Convention sponsored by the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico. U.S. Mexican Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 98, Homer, MI 49245-0098, telephone 517/568-4014 or fax 517/568-3726, or TURISERH, Av. Sierra Mazamitla No. 5219-A, Col. Las Aguilas, Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico, telephone 011 523 632-6091 or fax 011 523 133-0576.

SWITZERLAND

OCTOBER

25-26 ZURICH. Swissôtel/Hotel International (Zürich-Oerlikon, near SBB-Bahnhof). 26th International Münzenbörse sponsored by the Numismatischer Verein Zürich. NVZ, Postfach 4584, CH-8022 Zürich, Switzerland, telephone +41/81/854 00 55 or fax +41/81/854 00 54 (HMZ).

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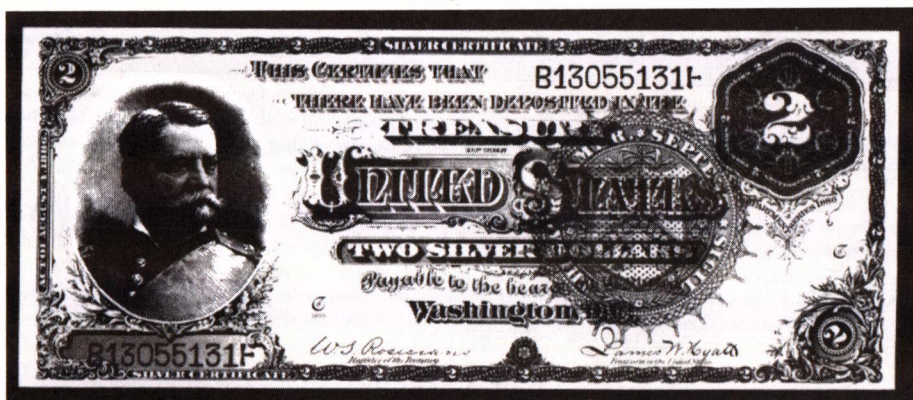
Contact the ANA for a list
of clubs in your area.

CLUB NEWS

In June the **Texas Numismatic Association** (TNA) issued its 39th convention medal. The obverse features two Texas legends: James Bowie and Juan Seguin; the TNA logo is depicted on the reverse. The medal was designed by Frank Galindo, TNA medals officer. This limited edition of 93 numbered sets contains one .999 fine silver and one antiqued bronze medal and is priced at \$33. Bronze medals are \$3 each, postage included. Send orders to Frank Galindo, P.O. Box 12217, San Antonio, TX 78212-0217.

In one of his last appearances as president of the ANA, Kenneth

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Membership News



A Delta Coin Club wooden nickel commemorates ANA President Kenneth Bressett's visit.

Bressett addressed the **Delta Coin Club** (DCC) of Stockton, California, at its June meeting. The subject of his talk was world peace through coinage by the year 2000. Wooden nickels issued to commemorate the event were available for all 68 in attendance. In appreciation, Bressett was presented with a marble paperweight and honorary club membership number 001. The DCC meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at Saint Paul's Community Center, 2220 West Alpine St., in Stockton.

The **Clements Coin Club** of Sugar Land, Texas, celebrated National Coin Week (NCW) with a variety of activities and designed a wooden nickel for the event. The

world's largest high school coin club opened NCW with a party in the William P. Clements High School library. Guests included Mayor Dean Hrbacek and School District Superintendent Don Hooper. Club members closed out the week by releasing Susan B. Anthony dollars and Kennedy half dollars into circulation at school lunch registers.

At a recent International Numismatic Convention held in Mexico City, the **U.S. Mexican Numismatic Association** was formed. The group has as its goals promoting Mexican numismatics around the world; increasing youth involvement in numismatics; supporting the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico; and uniting collectors of Mexican numis-

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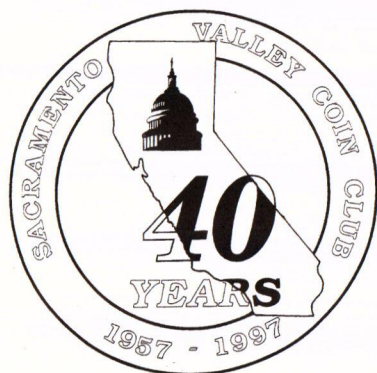


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Membership News



California's Sacramento Valley Coin Club has produced medal sets in honor of its 40th anniversary. Priced at \$30, each set contains seven medals in various finishes.

matics. Interim board members are Joe Flores of Stockton, California; Sal Falcone of San Jose, California; and Don Bailey of Homer, Michigan. Membership is open to all who are interested in Mexican numismatics, with the charter membership enrollment period open through December 31. Dues are \$15 per calendar year. Make checks payable to the U.S. Mexican Numismatic Association and mail to Don Bailey, P.O. Box 98, Homer, MI 49245-0098.

Telling the difference between artificial and natural toning was the subject of ANA President Anthony Swiatek's talk at the **Maryland State Numismatic Association's (MSNA)** Atlantic Rarities Coin Expo in Baltimore, held August 15-17. This marks the third straight year that an ANA president has been a featured speaker at the MSNA show. For more information about the Atlantic Rarities Coin Expo, telephone 410/592-2303, or write to MSNA, P.O. Box 6533, Baltimore, MD 21219.

The sixth annual **New York Coin Expo**, held May 31 at the World

Trade Center, included a Young Numismatists Program. Conducted by Larry Gentile, the program entertained both junior collectors and their parents, and was attended by a total of 65 coin enthusiasts. Among the day's events were a mini-exhibit contest, a numismatic quiz, a "play money" auction, a noon-time pizza party and numismatic videos. Author and American Numismatic Association Governor Scott Travers, the featured guest speaker, handed out a dozen autographed copies of his book *The Coin Collector's Survival Manual*, along with special starter kits.

In June Travers was in Los Angeles to speak at a meeting of the **Los Angeles Coin Club (LACC)**. His program focused on how to survive and thrive in the lean coin marketplace. Exploring the strategies from his book, he also shared his secrets about market cycles and the psychology behind collecting. The LACC meets at 8 p.m. on the first Friday of each month in the basement of the First Federal Bank at 464 N. Fairfax in Los Angeles.

The **Sacramento Valley Coin Club (SVCC)** is taking orders for its sets of 40th anniversary club medals. Each set includes one each in golden bronze, antique bronze, bright copper, antique copper, silver, lead and aluminum. Cost is \$30; payment must be received by September 5. Send to Sacramento Valley Coin Club, P.O. Box 160122, Sacramento, CA 95816. The medals will be available at the club's 40th Annual Coin-a-Rama, to be held October 25-26 at La Sierra Community Center. If ordering medals by mail, please add \$2 postage.

OBITUARIES

BRADFORD B. BROUGHTON— ANA 164410

Bradford Browne Broughton died on February 5, 1997. He was a professor at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, from 1955-94.

Donovan Spafford reports that Broughton was an active participant on the Internet. He had a well-rounded collection of foreign and United States pieces, with "a mix of every coin minted by the United States, including many different varieties . . . and a great cent collection." Broughton willed his entire collection to his grandson, who "will ensure that the hobby will see a Broughton in it well into the 21st century."

HENRY C. FLYNN JR.—LM 1152

Henry C. Flynn Jr. died on May 24, 1997, in Charleston, South Carolina. He was 76 years old.

The retired owner of Flynn Antiques, he was a long-time collector and member of the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association (BRNA), Florida United Numismatists, Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association, North Carolina Numismatic Association and South Carolina Numismatic Association. He was a former editor of the BRNA's newsletter, and charter member, life member and past president of the Low Country Coin Club.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Conner Flynn; two daughters, Susan Miller and Jane Fralix of Charleston; a sister, Emmie Bryant of Greenville, South Carolina; and three grandchildren, Craig and Eliz-

Membership News

abeth Miller and Patterson Fralix of Charleston.

EDWARD S. FISHER—ANA I56983

Edward Southworth Fisher died in Oroville, California, on December 30, 1996. He was 79 years of age.

Fisher designed the reverse of the United States \$5 gold coin issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II. His design was selected by the U.S. Mint from more than 400 submissions and was a highlight of his numismatic career.

A graduate of the New York School of Fine and Applied Arts, he was a commercial artist who later became a painter, printmaker and watercolorist whose paintings were displayed in galleries along

the East Coast.

Dale Seppa notes that although Fisher designed a U.S. coin, his collecting specialties included coins of historical interest of any period. "He was most interested in crude coinage and unusual items, such as cut and counterstamped coinage of the Americas, with a definite bent toward the West Indies and Spanish Colonial areas," says Seppa.

Fisher's numismatic articles were published in a number of journals, including *The Numismatist* ("A New Twist on an Old Countermark," September 1993, p. 1239). He also was the recipient of *TennCoin News'* best article of 1996-97 for "Coins Mark Naval Victory."

Seppa says that Fisher was most

interested in old coins that had stories to tell, dealing with dozens of dealers who handled coins in his area of interest. "As one of those dealers," Seppa admits Fisher was sometimes a trial in his persistence, but always friendly, fair and knowledgeable."

FRANK C. HOLMQUIST—LM 440

Frank C. Holmquist of Orland Park, Illinois, died on March 14, 1997. He was 79 years of age.

He was a member of the Merchant Marine during World War II and was employed for 35 years by R.R. Donnelley and Sons Company, working for 17 of those years on the covers of *Life* and *Time* magazines. His primary collecting interests were



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Canadian and United States coins and currency. Long-time friend Roberta Otto remembers that he encouraged children to collect by giving them mint sets every Christmas.

He is survived by the R.E. Otto family of LaGrange, Illinois.

MELVIN WEIMER—ANA 59036

Melvin Weimer died on June 14, 1997, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was 66 years old.

A founding member of the Van Vechten-Lineberry Museum in Taos, New Mexico, he also was board treasurer and founder of Colorado Springs' Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Center, and an honorary board member of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Weimer received bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Northwestern University in Chicago, and worked for Union Carbide in Cleveland, Ohio, and as a freelance publicist in New York and the Marshall Islands. In 1963 he joined his father as an agent for Northwestern Insurance Company in Colorado Springs.

He is survived by his mother, Frances; two sons, Reed Phillip of Denver, Colorado, and Alexander Rice of Seattle, Washington; a daughter, Dea Brown of Colorado Springs; and a sister, Marcia Cunningham of Taos.

R 171008 **Robert M. Alexander**, West Palm Beach, FL (joined 5-96)

LM 683 **Ludwig Behringer**, Tripp, SD (joined 9-57)

G 9530 **Hy Brown**, Mentor, OH (joined 1-43)

R 140341 **Jesse E. Brown**, Los Angeles, CA (joined 5-88)

R 37896 **Mike G. Brownlee**, Dallas, TX (joined 1-60)

K 16541 **Robert L. Davidson**, Long Beach, CA (joined 1-48)

K 161876 **Basil Dill**, Chamois, MO (joined 9-93)

LM 4894 **Ron Downing**, Torrance, CA (joined 10-80)

LM 1133 **Philip M. Gilberd**, San Diego, CA (joined 1-72)

R 170598 **Dick Gruber**, Kansas City, MO (joined 5-96)

R 14783 **E.D. Hass**, Burlington, IA (joined 1-47)

LM 75 **Harold R. Klein**, Naperville, IL (joined 8-37)

K 161634 **John L. Klimkowicz**, Chicago, IL (joined 8-93)

R 172152 **Walter G. Kotsch**, Baltic, CT (joined 8-96)

K 15523 **Allen F. Lovejoy**, Riverside, CT (joined 1-48)

R 151840 **Adrian Meck**, Lancaster, PA (joined 9-90)

LM 136 **Wilfred J. Mertes**, Sartell, MN (joined 9-37)

LM 3594 **Webster Nesbitt**, Saratoga Springs, NY (joined 2-75)

K 85224 **Lawrence Noe**, Bowling Green, OH (joined 1-75)

R 97351 **Ray S. Olejcek**, Grayslake, IL (joined 1-78)

K 71421 **Esko Rasanen**, Varkaus, Finland (joined 1-72)

G 4289 **Stanley James Roy**, Cleveland, OH (joined 1-33)

G 4671 **Perry Swofford**, Los Angeles, CA (joined 1-35)

LM 271 **Frank Zaylik**, Orland Park, IL (joined 7-52)

EXPELLED

Bobby G. Hayden (ANA 172942) of Englewood, Colorado. Expelled for failure to pay past due indebtedness to the ANA.

Safeguarding Prooflike Dollars

continued from page 1020

lating the coin can reduce its exposure to hydrogen sulfide, but, unless the holder is airtight, the threat is not totally eliminated. Additional protection can be obtained by sealing the encapsulated coin in a plastic bag in which copper keeps H_2S from reacting with the silver coin.

Collectors are advised that this article deals with tarnish resulting from a coin's exposure to ambient atmosphere *outside* its holder. It does not consider contaminants on the coin's surface prior to encapsulation or to sulfur-containing materials present in the holder itself. •

Sources

Butts, A., and D.C. Cox. *Silver, Eco-*

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A chemist by profession, Weimar W. White champions proper coin care and preservation. His last contribution to THE NUMISMATIST, "A Profile of Prooflike Morgan Dollars," was highlighted on the cover of the October 1994 issue.

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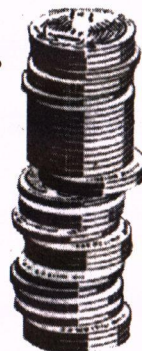


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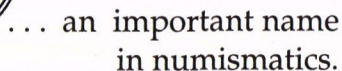
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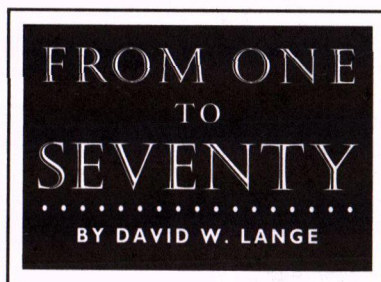
Grading Coronet Large Cents

THE DESIGNATION "Coronet type" sometimes is used to describe the large cents of 1816 to 1857 in general, but most often is applied to those struck between 1816 and 1839. Coronet cents also are divided into subtypes, such as the Matron Head, coined as late as 1835; the Young Head of 1835-39; and finally, the so-called Silly Head and Booby Head subtypes, unique to 1839. Curiously, *Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins* places the Young Head cents in the grading section with the Braided Hair subtype of 1839-57. I don't understand the reasoning behind this decision, but it coincides with the breakdown of subtypes in the "Red Book" (*A Guide Book of United States Coins*).

The Coronet series spanned the era of the hand-powered screw press (up to 1836) and the steam-driven knuckle press. While the cents from the new presses were more fully struck as a rule, this does not affect their grading criteria to a great extent. In fact, grading circulated large cents of this period is a fairly straightforward process. For the most part, the photographs and descriptions in the grading guide are quite clear and easy to use. Explanatory notes provided at the end of each grading section for the cents of 1816-35 and 1835-57 reveal some of the peculiarities associated with specific varieties that may affect their grading.

In actual practice, however, I've found that nearly all varieties of these years are likely to have been struck from dies exhibiting moderate to heavy wear. To identify just a few varieties as troublesome can be a bit

misleading to the inexperienced collector. In addition, these varieties are identified in the grading guide



by their Newcomb numbers, information not generally available to those collecting by type or date alone.

I'll try to stick to generalities that apply to any and all cents of the 1816-39 period. As noted above, the majority of these dates and varieties were struck from dies revealing moderate to heavy wear. The Mint evidently used each die until it failed, and some of the resulting coins were very indistinct.

Usually, the central elements of the design, such as Liberty's portrait and the wreath, were only slightly affected by die erosion; the problem presented by the worn dies was most severe on peripheral elements. The letters of the legends drew toward the edge as repeated impressions caused the die steel to gradually flow away from the centers. Unless a die prematurely failed from cracking, its normal lifespan saw the legends drawn outward until they touched

the borders. The denticles around each border also deteriorated with repeated use of the dies, until they disappeared altogether. The fields of the die typically developed deep flowlines radiating outward from the center.

Ironically, mint-state coins struck from worn dies often exhibit the most satisfying luster. Fresh dies typically are prooflike and quite reflective, becoming more satiny when wear begins to appear in their fields. As wear progresses, the resulting flowlines give coins a swirling pattern of light reflection. So, large cents that may be somewhat deficient in technical quality often are most appealing to the eye.

Since eye appeal is a major component in a coin's market value, grading services such as Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) may assign a high grade to a large cent that is less than fully detailed, but excels in aesthetic quality. In descending order, the priorities typically set by NGC's graders are eye appeal, surface quality, luster and sharpness of strike. The ideal in any coin is a combination of superior technical and aesthetic qualities, but, with the exception of proofs, the two often are exclusive.

All copper and bronze coins receive NGC's numerical grade followed by a color designation. Cents that retain at least 90 percent of their red color are labeled "RD," while those showing 20 percent or more are labeled "RB," shorthand for "red and brown." The designation "BN," for "brown," is applied to cents whose surfaces are less than 20-percent red or display primarily non-red coloration. •



Coronet large cents include several subtypes, such as the Matron Head.

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Morgan Dollars (With 1895)	(7,700.00 Fine)	(14,800.00 XF)	(28,250.00 AU)
50 Pc. Commem. Silver	(6,550.00 XF/AU)	(8,300 BU)	(16,000.00 CH/BU)
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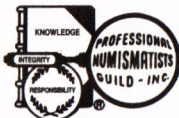
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Young Collector Considers Storage Methods

IN VARIOUS NUMISMATIC publications, I still see the occasional letter to the editor bemoaning the lack of interest of today's youth in our hobby. I wish all those folks had received this well-written, intelligent letter from a 13-year-old collector.

Q. I have been collecting coins for two years and have spent quite a bit of time reading about the best ways to store them. As a result of my study, I have the following questions:

1) I read in a book that skin oil, dandruff and other contaminants can damage coins and that these [contaminants] should be removed before placing a coin in long-term storage. The book suggested alcohol or acetone to remove the contamination. I have tried it with several coins, which all seem fine—is this okay for all my coins?

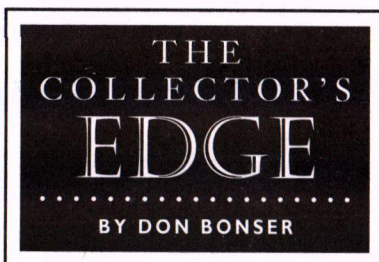
2) I put most of my coins in Kointains™ and then mylar flips. Since mylar flips can harm unprotected coins, is it okay to put foreign and ancient coins in Kointains?

3) Before I began using mylar flips, I bought some other flips from a local coin dealer. The border of these unidentified flips is different, and when bent, they don't "crackle" as much as mylar flips. My dealer says the suspect flips are safe and that you can identify PVC-containing flips from the oil bubbles that are visible when you hold them up to the light. Is this true, and are my flips safe? I'm enclosing a sample.

4) What is the best way to store lots of magazines and books? I have seen sleeves made of polypropylene that can be used as magazine covers.

Are these safe?

5) For large and unusual items like medals, tokens, wooden money



and other exnumia, what are the best holders?

6) Finally, what is the best holder for uncut sheets of paper money?

—B.K., Nebraska

A. I'll try to address your questions in order:

1) It is *very* true there are many forms of surface contamination that can damage coins over time, and it is definitely a good idea to remove them when present. However, I personally prefer to treat coins with alcohol (isopropyl) or acetone on an "as needed" basis, and would not recommend treating every coin in your collection. Although it is rare occurrence, the appearance of a coin treated by one of these chemicals can change a little. Copper is more frequently affected than silver, gold or copper-nickel. Exercise more caution with uncirculated coins or any coin with mint luster.

2) Absolutely! Kointains and mylar flips make an excellent storage and preservation combination, and they certainly can be used with world and ancient coins. Just be sure to choose the closest possible fit to

minimize or eliminate coin movement within the Kointain.

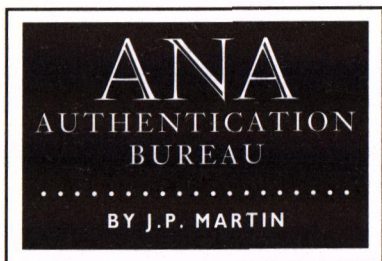
3) As you mentioned, mylar flips are brittle and "crackle" when bent. Flips containing PVC (polyvinyl chloride) are much softer and more pliable, thanks to the addition of a plasticizer. Unfortunately, over time PVC also can damage coins. You cannot necessarily identify PVC-containing flips by the presence of oil bubbles, as evidenced by the bubble-free flips you sent me as a sample—both contain PVC.

4) The polypropylene plastic sleeves you mention are quite safe for magazines and books.

5) For unusual-sized items like medals, the best holders are whatever you can safely use. As long as the holder is chemically inert, reasonably protects its contents from the atmosphere, and is well-suited for its particular application, it should be fine.

Years ago, I purchased two very large, heavy bronze medals commemorating the celebration of our nation's centennial in 1876. Naturally, no standard holders exist for these monstrous chunks of metal. To protect them, I put each in two zipper-lock, plastic lunch bags. The bags are inert, they protect the medals' surfaces from the atmosphere, and are well-suited for their application—in this case, storage in a safe-deposit box.

6) For uncut sheets of paper money, you also may have to invent your own storage holders. I recommend placing them in a large picture frame, perhaps with a sheet or two of polypropylene between the notes and the frame's cardboard back. •



Authenticating the 1928 Peace Dollar

Because of its low mintage (360,649), the 1928 Peace dollar is popular among collectors of United States coinage. It also is a likely candidate for mintmark alteration. Production of the coin by the San Francisco Mint exceeded that of the Philadelphia Mint, making it easy to create a P-Mint coin (which carries no mintmark) simply by removing the mark of the branch mint.

The ANA Authentication Bureau has recorded the diagnostics of three obverse dies used to strike 1928 Philadelphia Mint dollars. Knowledge of these diagnostics plays an important part in the coin's authentication.

Obverse Die #1 is identified by a straight line of die polish to the



Actual Size: 38.1mm

Genuine 1928 Peace dollar

right of the B of LIBERTY.

Obverse Die #2 exhibits so-called "flaming die polish" rising from the right side of the B of LIBERTY. One state of this die (previously thought to be a third die) shows several stray lines of die polish at the E of LIBERTY.

Obverse Die #3 displays short yet strong die polish lines in Miss Liberty's hair. They are most easily seen



Genuine: Note style and spacing of numerals in date.

by viewing the area at a low angle under a pinpoint light source positioned at a 90-degree angle to the coin.

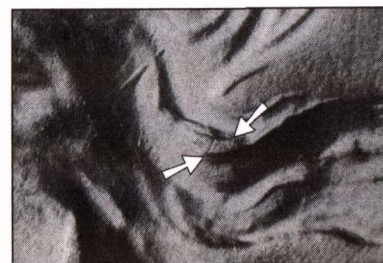
Whenever possible, compare questionable coins with genuine specimens. Observant collectors will notice that the rim of a Philadelphia Mint dollar differs from a San Francisco Mint dollar. Always examine the mintmark area for signs of tooling, polishing and "dishing." Also, check the date area for signs of alteration, as some 1928 dollars actually are altered 1923 specimens.



Obverse Die #2: "Flaming die polish" rises from the B of LIBERTY.



Obverse Die #1: Straight line of die polish from B of LIBERTY.



Obverse Die #3: Short, strong lines of die polish in Miss Liberty's hair.



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COIN #	COUNTRY	DATE/MM	DENOM.	VARIETY	☐ REEXAM ☐ TRANSFER	Authentication Plus	ISSUE CERTIFICATE TO	OWNER'S VALUE

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An additional service that provides data not offered in the standard certification procedure, the following evaluations include, but are not limited to: rarity, general value, weight, diameter, specific gravity, variety, recommended references, surface characteristics, reflectivity, originality, type of counterfeit, reed count, etc. See reverse for more information.

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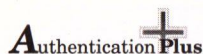
See worksheet on back)

TOTAL THIS ORDER: \$ _____

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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AUTHENTICATION BUREAU:

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- Cannot determine initial insurance valuation of items—values must be supplied by the submitter.
- Provides reference attributions if possible.
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Authentication Plus+ service provides evaluations not included in the standard certification process. Those submitting coins for certification can request additional data, including, but not limited to: rarity, value, weight, diameter, specific gravity, variety, surface characteristics, reflectivity, originality, type of counterfeit, reed count, and recommended references for further research. List item number and questions on a separate sheet.

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- Please submit items in easy access holders. Mark holders with matching submission numbers.
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- ANA will provide free insurance up to \$1,000 per item valued under \$5,000 (average). \$5,000 worth of free insurance, will be provided for each item valued at \$5,000 or more. Shipments valued higher are charged \$1.00 per thousand dollars of additional valuation. (see worksheet). This insurance covers only the period in which an item is in ANA's possession. (See #7 under ANA's Liability.)
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- Reexamination requires submission of the certified item and the certificate.
- Transfers require submission of original certificate (ANAAAB will not reissue certificates bearing grade opinions).

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Gold in West Africa

continued from page 1025

resulted in far-ranging interchanges of goods—and ideas.

In the 11th century, the Almoravid rulers of North Africa and Spain issued their first gold double dinars, which were struck at Spanish mints. From the 12th to the 14th centuries, the trading states of Europe also introduced gold coinages.

Medieval Europe also exhibited a passion for gold as jewelry, hoarded treasure and accumulated wealth. While silver and copper were the currencies of merchants, gold was the currency of governments, princes and the Church, financing their wars.

For trade and exchange, the gold producers certainly had a system of

weights, adapted to measure either worked gold or gold dust. The oldest known system of weights in Africa was developed in Egypt, having as a basic unit the "kite," which naturally varied over thousands of years. This system was replaced by Greek weights, followed by Roman and then Islamic weights. The earliest types were made of stone; later types were bronze. From about the 15th century, each wave of European traders brought their own weight system.

Trade Routes

CAMEL CARAVANS HAVE crossed the desert from time immemorial, using never-changing routes that exist even today. They were carefully planned—directed mainly to suitable wells, oases or market towns—and

controlled by nomads who monopolized the breeding and supplying of camels and thus had a hold on traders. The desert itself was free from tolls, and following the Islamic presence in Western Africa, caravan routes were busy with pilgrims on their way to and from the holy places of Islam in Arabia, bartering and trading en route.

The Portuguese opened the west coast of Africa to direct trade with Europe. Having learned to manage the winds and currents along the coast, Portuguese mariners reached the Azores and then Cape Verde by 1433. They had the first and best chance to use this knowledge to their national advantage.

They knew the North Africans obtained gold from across the Sahara; it was a key motive for

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exploring the west coast. Inhabitants were willing to trade their gold for such items as woolen cloth, horses, copper and brass. The Portuguese learned to trade not only goods, but also shipping services, being satisfactorily paid in gold for transporting items by sea rather than the alternative—the tiresome desert. Early Portuguese gold coins were minted from gold obtained through that West African trade. Noteworthy of this trade route, and others, is that no one community was continuously self-sufficient. Every one needed supplements that could be successfully traded.

An Eye toward the Future

THROUGHOUT MAN'S HISTORY, the continent of Africa has inspired doubt, mystery, romanticism, adventure, conjecture, speculation and literary works. One historic event of numismatic interest was recorded in 1324. The pilgrimage of Mansa Musa, the Emperor of Mali, offers a look at the monetary system of the time. Extremely devout as well as powerful, the emperor made the journey eastward in the grandest style. His caravan traveled through the desert via towns that exist to this day—Walata, Taghaza and Tuat—and arrived to camp at the pyramids.

As an introductory present to the ruler of Egypt, Mansa Musa sent ahead 50,000 gold dinars, equal to 500 pounds of gold. He spent three weeks in Cairo and distributed largess on such a grand scale that the value of gold dropped, according to some accounts, by as much as one fourth.

Allegedly exhausted, the gold of West Africa remained forgotten for centuries. In 1995-96 the mines suddenly attracted new interest. It

has been said that international conglomerates conducted surveys that conclude the gold is far from exhausted and that fresh mining operations will start soon.

It remains to be seen whether these new miners and entrepreneurs ever become aware of the original, unsophisticated miners and their ancient, formidable struggles to extract the metal most prized for its beauty, value, power and indestructibility. •

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A fourth-generation South African, Rita Miller resides with her husband in Cape Town. Her numismatic interests include commercial coins of European trading nations of the 16th-18th centuries, especially those that were traded at the Cape of Good Hope. She holds membership in the South African Numismatic Society.

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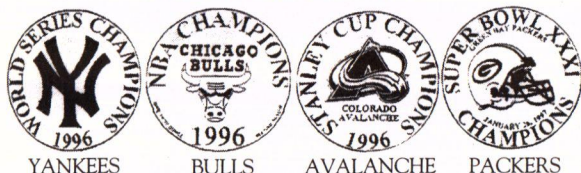
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AUCTION INSIGHTS BY BOB MERRILL

Secrets of a Consummate Trader

While visiting with a friend of mine in Long Beach, California, last June, the discussion turned to trading among dealers. The person with whom I was talking is a consummate trader in numismatics. He is the type of person who makes his living buying at auctions and from other dealers. In the course of our conversation, he mentioned that when he asked other dealers for a price on a coin, nothing could be better than when they respond by first turning the coin over to check their cost. You may find his reasoning as interesting as I did.

"No real trader sells or buys based on their cost," he said. "You sell coins based on what they are worth. If I'm willing to pay \$10,000 for a coin, I could care less whether the current owner paid \$1,000 or \$20,000. Be assured that if I rip a coin for a fraction of its value, I'm not going to pass it on to another dealer for a 10-percent profit—and frankly, I would not expect them to do that for me.

"However, those guys who do, well they are the ones I see first at every show. They are the dealers who price coins anywhere from a fraction of their value to quintuple their value. What happens is that their best 'new purchases' move out in a hurry, and their overpriced inventory becomes as marketable as Pat Boone music. These guys think they are the fattest hog at the trough because they sell those new purchases so fast, and they also think I have an intelligence quo-

tient of room temperature because I never buy their old inventory. The egos in this business would barely fit into the Rose Bowl, so I never offend anyone by belittling their knowledge. I just chuckle all the way to the bank."

The consummate dealer continued: "You and I may be friends, but we are competitors when it comes to coins. I don't want those people consigning to your auction. Then I'd have to compete against other players to get those coins. It's strange, but everyone does business with people they know. A lot of the so-called traders would rather sell to me than consign to you. They think I'm the top buyer on everything. If I were, I'd spend a lot more than I currently do at your auction. I usually can talk those guys out of consigning to you because they know what I will pay, and they need instant money because of their limited capital. Besides, I have a fiduciary interest in buying the coins as cheaply as possible."

I could certainly see my friend's point. His view coincides with the benefits of competition in the capitalistic system. I compare his views to a statement made by Henry Reuss in 1967, when he was chairman of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress: "When the United States government stops wasting our resources by trying to maintain the price of gold, its price will sink to . . . \$6 an ounce rather than the current \$35 an ounce." Now, I don't know if Reuss had a fiduciary interest in cheap gold or not, but my friend's and my interests are diametrically opposed. However, that still didn't stop us from having lunch together. •

Bob Merrill has been auction director for Heritage Numismatic Auctions in Dallas, Texas, since 1976.

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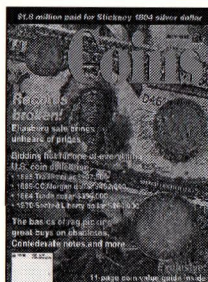


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